

A WEEKLY WORD

Readings for the week of June 7/26:

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The Scriptural definition of the word 'faith' is given to us in Hebrews 11:1. That verse says, *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

We know that faith is important because in Hebrews 11:6, we read, *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."*

Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us that our faith is a gift from God, and those people with a very deep faith have no reason to think of themselves as somehow better than those whose faith is smaller. That passage says, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Even more exciting news is found in Romans 10:17. Just because our faith may be small today, it doesn't have to stay that way. That verse tells us, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* In order to see our faith grow, we need to spend time in God's Word on our own. Attendance in a strong Bible believing church where we can receive solid teaching about Scripture is important, as is fellowship with other believers.

In speaking about Abraham, Romans 4:20 says, *"...but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God."* From that passage, we see the importance of keeping our eyes on Jesus, and not hesitating to give Him glory by telling others about the awesome things He has done for us.

Regardless of whether someone is a babe in Christ or a mature believer, we all need reminders of what the Lord has done. That's why I appreciate the reminders of God's faithfulness in these Scriptures.

In chapter 9 of Matthew's gospel, we see two awe-inspiring miracles that Jesus did. In Matthew 9:18-19, we read that Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. That Scripture says, *"While he [Jesus] was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples."* Then, in verses 20-22 of that

chapter, we read that Jesus healed the woman with the issue of blood, in the words, *"Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.'" Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." and the woman was made well from that moment."*

No matter what our need may be, God's word promises us in Mark 11:22-24, "And Jesus answered them [His disciples], "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

I have received many healings from the Lord, but there are other areas in my life where I am still waiting for healing. I am confident that my complete healing will come, but He is the only one who knows if it will be in this world or if I will have to wait for eternity. My prayer is that His will be done in every area of my life.

1 John 5:14-15 says, *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."*