

Key to Living in this World

Introduction Part 2

Measure of Faith

The bible says that each person is given a measure of faith. Well what is that? How do we get it? And finally why do we get it?

RO 12:3 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, **in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.** [4] Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

RO 12:9 “**Love must be sincere.** Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. [11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. [13] Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

This faith is different for each person. But the purpose of it is the same, to bring us to be one with God. You will have to check your life and find out what specifically it was. For me it was when He came to me and talked to me one day in a bar on the island of Guam. My story is in the first volume of the “Understanding the kingdom of God series.” But the point is that He came to me, He opened my eyes, ears, mind and heart, then He spoke to me.

Faith is not magic. It does not come to you like a fairy blasting you with magic dust and, wall-laa, you have faith. No. Faith must come from the decisive process to believe, to trust and to be willing to act on that belief and trust. So when God came to me and opened my eyes, ears, mind and heart, I was willing to believe in His voice when He spoke to me as an answer to my prayer, in the bar, which was:

Key to Living in this World

“If you are real, if you exist, I want you. Please let me know that you exist and that you want me, or if not then I can in a clear conscience tell everyone I know that you do not exist and are not real, because I prayed and you never answered.”

So I waited for an answer, and I got it, for He said,

“Yes! I am real. I exist and I love you. Would you be My son?”

With this I was given my measure of faith. His word to me was loud and clear. I looked around to see who was talking. He opened my ears to hear Him. He opened my heart to understand Him. He opened my mind to know that this was Him. With this I decided to believe, and I decided to trust Him. I acted on this when He told me to go to my Christian shipmate, to follow what he said because it was what I had to do to be saved and live as a Christian. So right after He told me that, I left my other shipmates at the bar, I returned to the ship and I asked my Christian shipmate what I was to do to be saved and to live as a Christian.

After he told me, I left to be alone with the Lord and did as he had told me. I have always tried to do that all of my life, because I had decided to have faith in God and to obey God.

Not knowing it at that time, but this brings us back to the keys of life: seek first the kingdom of God and seek first His righteousness. Faith does not come from magic; it only comes from having knowledge and understanding of the Kingdom of God. Because you cannot obey or follow their directions if you do not trust them, and you cannot trust them if you do not believe them, and you cannot believe them if you do not know or understand who they are. Seeking first the kingdom of God means to 1. Find out and obtain the knowledge of the Kingdom of God and 2. Understand what you have learned and know. You cannot make decisions to do anything if you do not know how it works and without understand and the purpose behind what you know, then you can make an intelligent decision to believe and trust God; therefore, living by faith.

Then you cannot act on anything that you do know believe in, for if you do you will fail. When you act on His suggestions, requests, or commands (whatever you want to call it) you are being obedient, which leads to being righteous. So next you need to seek out how to obey, and then act on it is seeking His righteousness

But why does God have to give us a measure of Faith? God says that He does not want any evil being or person in Heaven with Him. He knows everyone's heart, and in knowing this He knows who will love Him and who will not, no matter what He does. This is why He said this in Isaiah.

ISA 6:9 “He said, "Go and tell this people:

" `Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'"

Key to Living in this World

ISA 6:10 "Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

Then He uses it in Matthew:

MT 13:10 "The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

MT 13:11 "He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. [12] Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. [13] This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

MT 13:14 "In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
" `You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

MT 13:15 "For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them."

MT 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. [17] For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

MT 13:18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: [19] When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. [20] The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. [21] But since he has no root, he lasts only a short

Key to Living in this World

time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. [22] The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. [23] But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

To prevent those children of the devil from being able to enter into heaven, God has closed their eyes, ears, mind and heart. He does not want them to have the ultimate healing: Salvation. They would seek this if they understood just for their selfishness, and self-preservation. Think about it, what would you do if you knew for a fact that you are going to Hell, would you not lie or cheat to get in to heaven instead of Hell.

So God has to open our eyes, ears, mind and heart to receive the good news, the Gospel and with an open mind we can know the Gospel and we can then make a knowledgeable decision to have faith in God. This is why He says that He has to give each of His Children a measure of Faith.

This is how the measure of faith starts and grows. It grows when you decide to believe and trust what you have looking for in the Kingdom of God.

To seek out God always leads to us wanting to find out what is His number one command, and it is:

DT 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** [6] These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. [7] Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8] Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9] Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

MT 22:34 "Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. [35] One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: [36] "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

MT 22:37 "Jesus replied: " **'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'** [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Key to Living in this World

So in seeking the Kingdom of God, I found that He says to ‘**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,**’ which is, of course, to Love God with all of your being.

Ok so now I need to find out what He means by Love the Lord. How can I control the feelings of my heart? I did not know how to control the love feelings. So I sought to find out more about this, which is to find out what Love means in the Kingdom of God for this is not possible to do in the kingdom of the world.

So I found John chapters 14, 15, 16 and 17. But simple put it is:

JN 14:15 “If you love Me, you will obey what I command. [16] And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor (Helper) to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. [18] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. [21] Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love Him and show Myself to Him.”

JN 14:23 “Jesus replied, “**If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him,** and We will come to him and make our home with him. [24] He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.

JN 15:9 “As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. [10] **If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commands and remain in His love.** [11] I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are My friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. [17] This is My command: Love each other.

Then we know that to love is not to have the feeling of love but that of making the decision to love that is how we control it. We decide to have the attitude of love and by

Key to Living in this World

obedience of this, God will give us the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit will further open our eyes, ears, heart and mind.

JN 14:23 “Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make our home with him.** [24] He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.

JN 14:25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] But the Counselor (Helper), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Now that we have decided to obey God’s commands, He says that we loving God. So the reward for this obedience is the Holy Spirit. And when you have the Holy Spirit, He will teach you more about the Kingdom of God and He will remind you what He has taught you. So then you will have the knowledge and understanding of the Kingdom of God so that you can decide to have faith in God.

Now we said that the reward of being obedient is to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has other things besides the knowledge and understanding the Kingdom of God but He also helps to control your emotions and feelings.

Read Galatians 5.

GAL 5:22 “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love,** joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. [24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. [25] **Since we live by the Spirit,** let us keep in step with the Spirit. [26] Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

But the fruit of the Spirit is love... Ok what love is this? We already discussed that we have love if we obey His commands. This is not a command. This is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. So what is this fruit? It is the feelings that God gives us as a reward for being obedient. This is the Love feeling. This is how we control the Love feeling and all feelings, in fact, we control them by controlling the spirits behind these feelings.

Then with the Love feeling in our heart, it is easier to follow His commands. But disobedience is how we are control by the evil feelings.

GAL 5:19 “The acts (feelings) of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft;

Key to Living in this World

hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

So what is idolatry and witchcraft? Is it not when people not only allow but pray and try to receive evil spirits to live in them so that they can come closer to their master the devil. These evil spirits then give the feeling of idolatry and witchcraft as a reward for their obedience to the devil.

So when you have these evil spirits in you heart are you strong enough to cast them out? Do you have the power to control and remove them if you want? No. They are strong beings, fallen angels of heaven and you do not have any power over them. So what power do you have?

You have the power of love, when you decide to follow God's commands, because Love is God and God is love. To have love is to have God. He says that if you obey My commands you are showing that you love God and if you love God, He will live in you by the Holy Spirit. And if you have the Holy Spirit living in you, then the evil spirits must leave. So you control the evil influence over you by being obedient to God and Loving Him.

And all of this comes from making the decision to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteous.

So the conclusion is that the only power we have is in making decisions, not by doing the decisions, but in making them and to be willing to act on what you decide. For without the help of the Holy Spirit, you cannot control any evil spirit that might be in you trying to control you by feelings, which is why the world keeps trying to brainwash us by telling us to follow our feelings, that means to let the evil spirits control us. You know they always say, "If it feels good, do it." "If you do not know what to do, go by your feelings." This one is ok, if you know that the Holy Spirit, which is living in your heart because you are being obedient to God and Loving Him, controls your feelings.

If not, then when people are asked why they acted that way or did that thing, they answer, "The devil made me do it." Well they do not realize it but he did.

And just think, this all started when God gave us our measure of faith.

One day I was traveling on a bus, and as I was sitting there, all of a sudden I started hearing and having these feelings that I know were wrong, I knew that they were temptations. I started to panic, I was afraid that the temptations would be too strong from my will power (we all have a certain amount of will power, but we never have enough to over come temptation). Panic started to rise as the temptation got stronger and stronger, which was the feelings in side of me.

Key to Living in this World

So I started to pray for God to help. I prayed for Him to remove these wrong feelings and to stop the voices for trying to trick me to fall into the temptation trap. I waited and nothing happened. I was worrying and not that started to grow, as it did my panic started to grow. I was beginning to doubt if God would help. As this whole thing seemed to start to spiral out of control, I heard Him say, "Peace be with you." And as He said that, everything stopped. Then He said, "Relax, and trust Me, I will take care of it, but you must relax and trust Me to take care of it. Sit back, rest your head and stop worrying and panicking, I will help."

So I did. I got the measure of faith necessary to decide to believe Him, to understand that He has everything under control. So I decided to do as He requested, I put my head back on the seat, closed my eyes, and rested being assured that He would take care of everything. As I did, I was in peace. No more temptation voices or feelings. No more panic or worries, and especially no more doubt. Shortly after that, I opened my eyes and looked around and it was beautiful. It was like heaven on earth.

Remember Romans 10:

RO 10:16 "But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.** [18] But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did:

"Their voice has gone out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world."

The only power that I had over this temptation was to make the decision that I wanted to stay righteous. He was faithful to help encourage me with His words, and deciding to believe those words, built my faith, and then acting on them, He was able to remove that which was causing the temptations.

From then on, whenever I find myself being tempted, before I allow it to open the windows to panic and doubt, I make the decision to pray for help and then I make the decision to allow myself to fall into His peace. So living in His peace protects me like the Armor of light. It all comes down to making and following your sincere decisions.

JAS 5:12 "Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

JAS 5:13 "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will



Key to Living in this World

be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

JAS 5:17 “Elijah was a man just like us. **He prayed earnestly** that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

To be earnest is to be sincere. To have an agreement between your mind and your heart. Just saying it with your mouth is not enough, you must mean it with your heart too. When this occurs, then you are being earnest and sincere like Elijah. That moves God’s heart and you will live in His peace.

[Dictionary.com Unabridged \(v 1.1\)](#) – *Cite This Source*

ear · nest¹   - [Show Spelled Pronunciation \[ur-nist\]](#) [Pronunciation Key](#) - [Show IPA Pronunciation](#)

-adjective

1. Serious in intention, purpose, or effort; sincerely zealous: an earnest worker.
2. Showing depth and sincerity of feeling: earnest words; an earnest entreaty.
3. Seriously important; demanding or receiving serious attention.

-noun

4. Full seriousness, as of intention or purpose: to speak in earnest.

[Origin: bef. 1000; ME *erneste*, OE *eornoste* (adj.); ME *ernest*, OE *eornost* (n.);

c. D, G *ernest*]

—Related forms

ear · nest · ly, adverb

ear · nest · ness, noun

Key to Living in this World

—Synonyms 1. fervent, intent, purposeful, determined, industrious, ambitious. Earnest, resolute, serious, sincere imply having qualities of depth and firmness. Earnest implies having a purpose and being steadily and soberly eager in pursuing it: an earnest student. Resolute adds a quality of determination: resolute in defending the right. Serious implies having depth and a soberness of attitude that contrasts with gaiety and frivolity; it may include the qualities of both earnestness and resolution: serious and thoughtful. Sincere suggests genuineness, trustworthiness, and absence of superficiality: a sincere interest in music.

—Antonyms 1. frivolous.

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To further understand this we must keep reading His word, that of the bible and other prophetic works, we must keep praying constantly, and we must keep trying to be one with Him, like He says in John 14, 15, and 16; then moving mountains will become a natural part of your life.

Key to Living in this World