

Ten Things Every Believer Should Know About Faith (Part 2)

by Bayless Conley

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Today on *Answers with Bayless Conley*:

The Holy Spirit has illuminated a promise to your heart. You've embraced that promise. You've lifted your hands and thanked God for that promise. You've acted upon that promise. My friend, that kind of faith will bring answers your way.

Welcome to the program. If you were with us last time, you know we began talking about some things that every believer should know about faith. These things are basic, but it's surprising how many people don't actually know them, or they're just not refreshed concerning these things. I believe this message is so important.

So, hey, sit down. Invest the next few minutes as we look into the Word of God about some important faith facts.

Hi, I'm Bayless Conley. In life, we all face uncertainty. Whether it's financial troubles, relationship valleys, a health crisis, or just trying to discover your purpose, one thing is for certain; God sees you. He loves you. And no matter what you are facing, He has the answers.

Hello, dear friend. Welcome to today's message. We're continuing on talking about ten faith facts or ten things every believer should know about faith.

And if you were with us last time, we talked about the fact that God has dealt to every Christian a measure of faith. If you're a believer, God's given you a measure of faith. Secondly, we found out that faith can be increased. It is increased by hearing the Word of God and by using it. Faith should be developed. Number three, we found that faith without works and without corresponding actions is dead. Faith is an act. We must act in line with what we believe. If we don't act, truly, we don't believe. Faith is an act. Then we ended last time talking about this, that faith works by love. Faith works through love.

Friend, if I've allowed bitterness or unforgiveness into my heart, it will throttle faith. It will keep faith from operating. Faith and love work together.

And we got into those things in detail last time, but I'm going to get into another important facet of faith right now, and it's this that faith is of the heart. Now I want you to listen carefully to me because, honestly, there are so many people that do not understand this. I want to say it again. Faith is of the heart. Romans 10:10 says,

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes . . .

I don't believe with my head, I don't believe with my body or my feelings, but it's with the heart that one believes. The heart refers to the spirit or the inner man. I am a spirit. I have a soul,

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which is my mind, my will, and my emotions, and I live in a physical body. I'm a triune being. I'm a three-part being. I am a spirit being. I have a soul. I live in a physical body, and it is with my spirit, with my heart, that I believe.

Peter referred to it in 1 Peter 3:4 to the hidden person of the heart. You see, it's hidden. You can't see the real me. Now I've got these hazel eyes. These are the windows I'm looking out. My roof isn't as well thatched as it was once upon a time. I've got freckles. I got an interesting spotted paint job. But you can't really see me. You just see the house I live in. I'm a spirit being. The real Bayless is hidden. It's the hidden person of the heart.

Consider these verses. And I want you to stay with me. If you'll get this, it'll change your life. I'm telling you, it will change your life. Romans 2:28–29, Paul is writing.

He is not a Jew who's one outwardly or who has circumcision in the flesh, which is outward, but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart in the Spirit, not in the letter whose praise is from men. Not from men but from God.

Now, think about that. It talked about inwardly and outwardly. A true Jew is not one who's just outwardly, not who has an outward circumcision in the flesh, but a true Jew is one who is inwardly, who has the heart circumcised in the Spirit. The outward refers to the body or the flesh. The inward refers to the heart or the spirit.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:16. Though our outward man is perishing, the inward man is renewed day by day.

My friend, there's more to you than meets the eye. There is a hidden person of the heart living in that body.

In Romans 7:22, Paul writes,

²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

When my inward person, the real me, hears the Word of God, he delights. He is created to believe the Word of God, to embrace the Word of God. But Paul talked about seeing this other force at work in his body, the nature of sin that was still in his flesh. One day we're going to get new fleshly bodies created like unto His glorious body. They're going to be glorified bodies. But in the meantime, we have this treasure in an earthen vessel. And my body, it receives all these things that my physical senses tell me, smell, touch, taste, how things look, how things seem, how I feel reports them to my mind. But friend, it's not with my body, and it's not with my mind that I believe; it's with my heart, it's with my spirit.

The outer man or the natural man reports natural information to our mind, which is received, as I said, through the five physical senses; symptoms, outward circumstances, and appearances. But faith is of the heart. Faith is not of the outward man. Faith has to do with the inward man.

Now listen to me. To believe with the heart—and again, back to what I said, Romans 10:10, it is with the heart that we believe. To believe with the heart means to believe apart from what our physical bodies may tell us or what our physical senses may indicate. The physical or the outer man only believes what his physical senses or his feelings may tell him. But your spirit or your heart believes in the Word regardless of seeing, regardless of hearing, or regardless of feeling.

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Hebrews 11:1,

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Somebody says, "Well, you say you're healed? The Scripture says that surely He's borne your sicknesses and carried your pains. By His stripes, you're healed. Bayless, you don't look healed, you don't sound healed, you are coughing." And I'll tell you, look, I'm not saying that I feel healed. I'm not saying that I'm not coughing. I'm saying that I believe on the authority of God's Word that I am. It's the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. And it's based upon a promise. It's based upon the eternal, unchangeable truth of God's Word. And as I believe that with my inner person, I'm not denying that the outward things exist. I am just denying them the right to rule over me. And, friend, faith will change those things.

There is a law of gravity. Man, I know that. If I drop this cup of tea right now, the cup will probably break, and the tea will spill all over the floor. I know there is a law of gravity. If I jump off of a ladder, I know I'm going to splat the ground. But I also know there's a higher law. It's the law of lift. And I can get in an airplane and go down the runway. And as I pick up speed, the air's going over those wings, and it begins to lift, and the law of lift supersedes the law of gravity. And that plane will lift up right through the gravity.

My friend, the law of faith that is based upon God's Word, it is the inner person taking God at His Word. And you look at every great man, every great woman of faith in the Bible; they believed in things they couldn't see strictly because God had said that it was so. They acted upon God's Word without physical evidence, without physical confirmation. They believed what God said.

You think about Joshua. They're at the walls of Jericho. God says, "Okay, Joshua, here's the plan. I want you to march around the city without saying a word for a day." And Joshua says, "You're kidding. When do we use the battering rams, God? When do we throw the grappling hooks up? When do we throw our spears?" God says, "Okay, second day," Joshua said, "I knew it. Tomorrow is going to be the battering ram," God said, "Day two, you march around the city in silence." Joshua said, "Really?" And then God said, "Day three," Joshua says, "Yes, I knew it. Battering rams, grappling hooks, flaming arrows. Yes. We're going to take the city." God said, "Third day, around the city, don't make a noise." God said, "I want you to do that seven days, and on the seventh day, Joshua, I want you to march around seven times, blow the ram's horn, and then everybody shouts, and the walls will fall down."

Now, in the natural, Joshua had to be thinking, "You've got to be kidding me. God, this makes no sense. This is idiotic. This is unprecedented." But you know what? He acted upon it. He had no physical confirmation that what He said was true. They'd marched around that wall seven times, blew the ram's horn. He said, "Look, everybody, shout. God said the walls are going to come down." And so, he acted upon it, even though there was nothing historically that he could even look to to say that something like this might happen. He did what he did by faith.

Noah built the ark by faith. He was warned of things not yet seen.

Faith deals with the heart. I don't look to physical symptoms or to circumstances to confirm my faith.

Listen. I was using that illustration about that. I'm not saying that I feel okay. I'm not saying there are not visible symptoms. I'm not saying that I'm not coughing. But I just believe that as I apply

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the Word of God, as I thank God for His promises, as I worship Him for His Word, as I embrace what He says, as I begin to act upon it, the law of faith will supersede the law of sickness. And God will bring me to a place of healing and health.

I do believe Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He healed the sick on the shores of Galilee, and He's still doing the same thing today, my friend. And I choose to put my trust in His Word, which is eternal, and it will change the scene. It will change the temporal.

So again, many people have never really grasped that fact. Just like, "Well, I prayed, and I started to feel better. And thought, oh, God is working. But then, all of a sudden, I started to feel bad. And I thought, oh, it didn't work. What happened?" Friend, even if I felt better after I prayed and after I stood on the Word, I'm not basing my faith on how I feel. It doesn't matter if I feel better or if I feel worse. It doesn't matter if I look better or if I look worse. My bedrock is God's promise. That's where my faith is anchored. And that's what my inner person believes in. Faith is of the heart. Your heart will believe the Word, regardless, again, of seeing, hearing, or feeling.

You read the Word of God, you find the promises of God, you act upon them, and your inner man will rejoice in doing that. The outer man is still going to report senses, feelings, circumstances. All right. I don't deny those things are there, but I believe that God's Word is going to supersede things and change my circumstances.

If we only listen to the outer person, we will be cheated out of the blessing. The outer person is going to say that's foolishness. The symptoms, the circumstance, you don't look better, things haven't changed. Stop saying that God is working. It's obvious that He's not working. I mean, just look around you. Things look worse. All right. Again, I'm not denying that things are worse, but I do believe God is working because He said that if I do this that He will work. And so, I've done this, and I trust that God is working.

And we're always faced with the decision right there. Do I go along with the outer man and lose out, or do I submit the outer man and his feelings and his perceptions to the Word of God and to the heart where I'm trusting God for an answer? Faith does not set its course based on feelings or physical observances.

I recently came back from a fishing trip. And we were coming back at night, and it was foggy. And so we just set the instruments. You can pull up this digital map and say, okay, we want to go right here to the mouth of the harbor. And so you set it. And it shows you a line. You just go along that line. You're heading there. But you know what? All of my physical senses told me we were going the wrong way. It didn't feel right. Everything told me no, this is wrong. It just feels like we need to be going the other way. This isn't right. We were fogged in. We couldn't see, and my body was screaming, "This isn't right. It feels wrong." But the instrument said it was the right direction to go. And so I chose to believe the instruments. And you know, they took us right to the mouth of the harbor.

You need to become an instrument-rated Christian. The instrument is the Word of God that we go by what the Word of God says, regardless of how we feel, regardless of how things look. And I'm not saying be presumptuous or be foolish. I mean, you have spent time; prayerful, studied time in His Word.

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The Holy Spirit has illuminated a promise to your heart. You've embraced that promise. You've lifted your hands and thanked God for that promise. You've acted upon that promise. My friend, that kind of faith will bring answers your way.

I remember I took my brother-in-law and sister once to a place in the foothills, not far from where I'm sitting right now. And a friend had shown this place to me years before. There's a section you're driving up into the foothills, and there's a section where you sit down at the bottom of this hill, and you look up, and it's obvious it's heading up, but it's actually not heading up. It's downhill. It's an optical illusion. I don't know how. But I took my brother-in-law and sister and got in the truck. We parked at the bottom of the hill. So we're looking up, and I tell my brother-in-law, "Take your foot off the brake, put it in neutral, take your foot off the brake, we'll roll up the hill." He said, "Bayless, I don't have time for this." I said, "Just do it." So he takes his foot off the brake, puts in a neutral, and we start rolling up the hill.

He started screaming. He said, "I can't believe this. What is going on? We're rolling up the hill. This is impossible." All of his physical senses told him this is impossible. Everything he could see, everything he could feel, everything his body and his vision was reporting to him told him this is crazy. It can't be. And so we rolled up. He said, "How?" I said, "It's just some sort of optical illusion here. I don't know." He got out of the car. He climbed down the side of the hill. He walked along the side of the hill. He crouched down, looked at me, and said, "I can't believe it." We rolled up the hill.

Well, friend, some of you, you got to take your foot off the break. You've got the break on and say, "Well, I can't believe this because X, Y, and Z. It looks like it's not working." Well, friend, God is true, and He loves it when we take Him at His word. That's what changes the circumstance. And the Bible says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." That's 2 Corinthians 5:7.

Hebrews 11:1,

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

We walk by the substance of things hoped for; we walk by the evidence of things not seen, not by sight, not by how we feel. We walk by faith based on what God has said. His Word is called the Word of faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word. It is with the heart that we believe.

And if we'll fill our heart with the Word of God, we can believe Him in the face of contradictory circumstances, and His Word and His Spirit will change things.

I hope you're still with me. Well, you know, I feel like I could keep going on that point. But I think I threw out enough nuggets there for you to lay hold of something. I really would like you to deeply consider it.

Now I'm not talking about being crazy or being foolish. Again, I take you back. I'm talking about first spending prayerful, sacred time in God's Word and letting the Holy Spirit illuminate a promise to your heart. Friend, your heart will embrace that promise. It'll be the most natural thing, then, to act upon it. And it won't matter what anybody else says. It won't matter what the circumstances might say. You will just know that you know in your heart. And true faith changes things.

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You read through Hebrews chapter 11, that great litany of men and women who by faith did exploits, by faith they received promises, by faith subdued kingdoms. You read the stories, and almost every single time, they stood in the face of insurmountable odds. Everything that their physical senses would've told them said, "This can't happen. We've already lost. We may as well quit," but they went ahead and acted upon the Word of God. They believed with their heart, and God changed things. He's still the same God today. And faith in God still works today.

All right, let me bring it to at least one more point. And it's pretty evident from what I've said. But here's the sixth faith fact. Faith rests on the evidence of God's Word alone. Faith rests on the evidence of God's Word alone. Again, we walk by faith, not by sight. That is faith in God's Word. It is faith in a Person and what He has declared. It is faith in God. Jesus said in Mark 11:22,

²² "Have faith in God."

This isn't just a principle we apply, but it's having faith in a Person, having faith in our Creator, and in the declarations that He has made because God who promised cannot lie, the Scripture says.

In Matthew 8:8, the centurion sent for Jesus because his servant was sick and at the point of death. And it's the most intriguing story. The centurion said, "Just only speak a word, and my servant will be healed." Another translation said, "Speak the word only." I love that. "The word only." "Jesus, all I need is Your word. I don't need anything else. I just need Your word. You just say it. I'll believe it. My servant will be healed. I don't need any other evidence. I don't need any other corroborating evidence. I don't need a feeling. I don't need an angel to appear to me. I just need Your word." And Jesus said, "I have not found such great faith, no, not in Israel."

It's interesting. If you read the story, Jesus is actually in the middle of doing some great campaigns. There are huge crowds that are following Him at this time. And the centurion, it was an odd thing, but he loved his servant. You didn't find that much in the Roman world. He was a hardened soldier. And for him to have such compassion on this man, and he obviously had a heart after God, for he built the Jews a synagogue. He was somebody that was hungry after God, loved his servant, and he heard about Jesus. But all he heard, all he knew was that Jesus was able to heal people. He would have heard from other servants. "When you sent me into town last month to get supplies, there was this deaf man there, and I saw Jesus put His fingers in his ears, and he was healed." And somebody else said, "Yes, I heard so and so." And so, the centurion has gotten this information that there's this Jewish Prophet that can do these things. I know He can.

And so, he sends the elders of the Jews to Jesus to see if He will come. And one of my reference books says that where Jesus was at this time was approximately 20 miles from where the centurion was. So it's a full day's journey. The centurion sends the elders, the Jews. It's a full day's journey to get there. They find Jesus and said, "Look, there's this guy, he's built our nation a synagogue, and he's worthy. You should do this for him." And I think probably to the disciple's chagrin, Jesus said, "Okay, I'll come." And they're thinking, "We've got these huge crowds. You're going to walk 20 miles. You're going to make us walk 20 miles for one guy, and he is a Roman?" Jesus says, "Come on, boys. Let's go."

So they walk 20 miles, another full day's journey. So it's been two days since the centurion has sent these elders, the Jews. And I just picture him there, pacing in his house. His servant is getting sicker and sicker at the point of death. And he's pacing back and forth. And somebody says, "Master. Master. There's a crowd coming." And he comes, and he sees them. And here, in

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the middle of the crowd, is Jesus. One of the servants said, “That’s the Guy that healed the deaf man. I recognize Him. That’s Jesus. He’s come.” And the centurion then does the oddest thing. He sends someone to go to Jesus after He has walked 20 miles to get there, a full day’s journey, and says, “Don’t trouble Yourself.” He said, “I’m not worthy to have You come under my roof.”

Now it’s interesting. The Jew said he’s worthy. He said I’m not worthy. That’s interesting. He was a humble man as well. But he said, “Speak the word from there. My servant will be healed in here.”

Now, he said, “All I need is the word.” It’s really interesting. I’m sure the disciples think, “Speak the word from here. We just walked a whole day to get here. Why didn’t you have Him speak the word 20 miles back? He could have spoken it there as well.” But I think about this centurion. All he knew was that Jesus was able. He knew that Jesus could heal.

And so he’s been waiting with bated breath. And when he sees Jesus, now he understands and realizes Jesus is not only able, but He’s also willing. Faith believes that God is able, but it believes He’s also willing. And when he saw that, he said, “Look, He doesn’t need to come a step further. Just tell Him to speak the word from there. That’s all I need. Just His word.”

Friend, if you believe God is able, that’s a good thing, but that’s just the starting place. You also need to believe that He’s willing.

Jesus did more than walk 20 miles out of His way to prove the willingness of heaven to heal. He came from heaven to earth. He left the glories of that world, and He was born as a little baby in Bethlehem in that stall, and He was laid in a manger. He was raised in a poor carpenter’s home. He took upon Himself a body of flesh, and He walked among us. And then He went, and He died on Calvary’s tree after having taken the stripes across His back.

I believe that those stripes across His back was God writing in blood that it was His will to heal. For the Scripture says, “By His stripes, you are healed.” His willingness to go to the cross and die for us to come all the way from heaven to spill His precious blood and give up His life so that we might become family members of God shows us that He’s willing to help us.

The Bible says if God didn’t withhold His only Son from us, how shall He not also, with Him, freely give us all things? He is not just able. Yes, He’s able. Thank God, He’s able, but He’s also willing. And faith rests on the evidence of God’s Word alone. A God who is able and a God who is also willing to help us, to heal us, to lift us, to guide us, to comfort us, to sustain us, to provide for us. Faith in God is the key that unlocks the blessings. Faith in God it’s—faith is the hand that reaches up and receives what the hand of God’s grace freely provides. And faith is based on the evidence of God’s Word alone.

Let me tell you something His Word says. It says whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Maybe you’ve never done that. Maybe you’ve never called on the name of Jesus. And you might be thinking, “Bayless, if you knew my past, if you knew the terrible things I’ve done, you wouldn’t be saying that to me.” I am saying that to you based on the authority of God’s Word. If you call on Him, He will be rich to you. He’s rich to all that call upon Him. Jesus said the one that comes to Me, I will not cast out. If you call on the name of the Lord, put your trust in Jesus Christ today, my friend, He will save you. He will wash you clean. And He will give you a new life.

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Well, friend, I hope that you did call on the name of Jesus. And if this helps you, maybe just put a hand over your heart and just say Jesus (and tie your heart around these words), Jesus, come into my life. I accept You as my Lord and Savior. Wash me clean, change me. I will follow You all the days of my life.

Now we'd love to hear from you. We can maybe send some information your way that will help you in this journey with Jesus Christ. Let us know if this has been a blessing to you. Until next time. See you then.

We're grateful for the friends and partners who make this program possible. For more information and inspiration, visit BaylessConley.com. Our prayer is that God's richest and best will be yours always.

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