

Greater Christ Temple's COLLEGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

10/24/2018

Wednesday Bible Study

11:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Fundamental Christian Living pt. 1

"The Act of Faith"

District Elder Mark A. Haywood
pastor / teacher



GreaterCTC.org



Fundamental Christian Living

Part 1

The Act of Faith

Genesis 22:1-2

1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Genesis 22:9-18

9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. **10** And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." **12** And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." **13** Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him was* a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead

his son. **14** And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, **16** and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son* — **17** blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. **18** In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**" (emphasis mine)

James 2:21-24 (emphasis mine)

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by **works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **22** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and **by works faith was made perfect?** **23** 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. **24** You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

{So then we see that Genesis 15:5 speaks of the promise made to Abraham at that moment but, verse 6 jumps ahead into the future where Abraham obeys God and his faith is imputed to him for righteousness.***}***

James 2:26

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- If your faith (trust) does not bring forth the corresponding action, then your trust (faith) is non-existent. It is only lip-service. If this is your state, then you are confessing with your mouth, but not believing (trusting) in your heart, with your mouth you worship God but your heart is far from Him.

Jeremiah 11:1-5

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, **2** "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the ⁶

inhabitants of Jerusalem; **3** and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Cursed *is* the man who does not obey the words of this covenant **4** which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,' **5** that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them "a land flowing with milk and honey,' as *it is* this day.'" And I answered and said, "So be it, LORD."

- We see here the Mosaic Covenant was not, as commonly thought, a covenant of laws. It was a covenant of faithful **obedience**, the 613 precepts of the law were simply details, but the covenant itself was simply that they would **obey** The LORD and obey His instructions.⁷

- The history of national Israel basically shows the concept of the act of faith from the other side. First we saw that we must not only have faith, but we must also act on our faith. Israel's history teaches us that we must not only do the act, but we must also have the faith. Throughout the Bible it seems that Israel believe God, but failed to keep his commandments. By the time Christ arrived, the Pharisees were in control of Israel's spirituality, under their leadership the people kept the “law” (or rather the Pharisees puffed up version of the law, with many man-made traditions added) but completely lacked the original **faith** given to Moses at Sinai. Their religion was nothing but empty ritualism, void of faith.

Numbers 21:6-9

6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. **7** Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. **8** And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. **9** And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

- It is common knowledge amongst Christians that the fiery serpent being lifted up for the healing of the people is a type of Jesus Christ being lifted up on the cross (John 3:14-15), but God also gives us a type of the Act of Faith by which we are saved. There is absolutely no scientific reason why looking up at a bronze serpent would cure people of a deadly snake bite. The only reason this cure worked is because God said so, and the people believe God, but they had to follow through, even if you believed looking at the brazen serpent would cure you, if you did not actually look at it you died anyway. This corresponds to what was said earlier, you can believe the blood of Christ washes away your sins, but if you don't **obey the gospel** (repentance, water baptism in Jesus name) your faith does not save you:

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The same principle of the Act of Faith may apply in situations where we want something from God, such as healing...

Kings 5:9-14 (emphasis mine)

9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. **10** And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and *you shall* be clean." **11** But Naaman became

furiously, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out *to me*, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' **12** *Are not the Abanah** and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. **13** And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, *if* the prophet had told you *to do* something great, would you not have done *it?* How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" **14** So **he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan**, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

- Its not the water of the river Jordan that healed him, but the grace of God that responded to Naaman's faith made evident through ACTION!
- Jesus reinforced the principle of the Act of Faith in the New Testament:

Mark 3:1-5

1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. **2** So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. **3** And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." **4** Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to

save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. **5** And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "**Stretch out your hand.**" **And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.**

- The only reason his hand was restored was because Jesus spoke it and the man obeyed in faith. Had he believed for a healing but refused to extend his hand, he would have died with a crippled hand!

John 5:2-9

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep *Gate* a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the

water. **4** For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. **5** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, "**Do you want to be made well?**" **7** The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." **8** Jesus said to him, "**Rise, take up your bed and walk.**" **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

- The Act of Faith also applies to us when we endeavor to act on the promise of the Spirit (Mark 16:17), which we have received from God:

Acts 3:6-8

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." **7** And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. **8** So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God.

- I was listening to a tape of Bishop Iona Locke preaching, before she got to the actual sermon she was speaking to the congregation, but suddenly she stopped and prayed for a woman who had back problems. She couldn't bend over and could hardly twist from side to side. After offering up a sincere and anointed prayer (I believe members of the church laid hands on her in prayer along with Bishop lock), she instructed the lady to bend over and touch her toes, she hesitated for a second (such an action would generally cause excruciating pain) but she believed for her healing and so she bent over to touch her toes with no pain and stiffness. Then she twisted her upper torso left to right, again no pain and stiffness. She was healed because she not only believed for the healing, but she showed

forth an Act of Faith in that she claimed her healing by **doing** what she could not do before just like the lame man who got up and walked!

- The next level is waiting for your arrival, you will walk through that door when you begin to put **ACTION** to your **FAITH!**

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Day/Time: Saturdays, September 15, 2018 through November 3, 2018
11:30a - 1:00p

Greater Christ Temple's Men Of Purpose

GOSPEL JUBILEE **2018**



Saturday, November 10, 2018

5:00 PM

Greater Christ Temple

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

District Elder Mark A. Haywood, senior pastor