

# Divinely Blessed & Restored

## DO YOU HAVE FRUIT FILLING? ©

### The Lord Has Filled You With the Fruit of the Spirit!

Series VII

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*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV)*

This month's article continues our series on the fruit of the spirit. This month our focus is on "faith". As I prepared to write this article, I thought back upon the article written over two years ago at the debut of the Divinely Blessed & Restored website on September 18, 2006. As I went back and read this article, I felt this article was worth republishing. Not only because it is this month's theme, but also because it is a word that is just as applicable for today. It is my prayer this article will be a blessing to you and fill you with the *fruit filling..... of faith!*

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. KJV*

This month is the inaugural month of the **Divinely Blessed & Restored** website. The journey from inception of this vision in my mind to the translation of my vision to a computer screen was a walk of faith. A walk without anything of physical substance that could be seen while Jason, the Webmaster, allows God's handiwork to flow thru his hands, translating what I felt in my soul into the design, colors, and layout you see today. It took faith and trust in his capabilities to allow him the creative freedom he needed coupled with a belief that he understood what I desired. And I had to rely upon my faith to sustain me until the day Jason revealed his work to me.

As I thought about this, it became clear to me this was an allegory of how we are to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are to give the desires of our heart to Him and we are to have faith and trust in His capability to fulfill our needs. This means moving ourselves out of the way and allowing Him to work independently. It requires us reminding ourselves that if we could handle it ourselves, we would not need to take it to Him.

For many of us, this sounds much easier than it is in reality. Why is that? Faith is the leaning of our entire human personality and being on Jesus Christ in absolute trust and confidence of His power, wisdom & goodness. Romans 12:3 tell us every man is given a measure of faith. Faith is an equal opportunity blessing. That means faith is not something I can have, but you cannot.

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We all have it, but there is something important we need to understand about faith. Faith is developed by hearing, reading and studying the Word of God. That means we should meditate on the Word, dig deeply into it, and feed upon it. Then the Word becomes a part of us, just as natural food becomes a part of our physical body, when we eat. What natural food is to the *physical* man, the Word is to the *spiritual* man. Faith is not something we have as much as it is something we do. The scripture tells us, faith without works is dead. That means, our actions must exhibit faith, I call this our "*faith-walk*". As Christians, we cannot give lip service to a "*faith-walk*"; we need to give life service to a "*faith-walk*". Faith in God is continuous day after day, hour after hour, and minute by minute. It means trusting and relying upon Him to provide us with everything we need regardless of circumstances, obstacles or people. It means keeping the faith during our times of uncertainty, tests and trials --when what we see with our physical eye appears to be contradictory to what we are trusting and believing God for.

In addition to walking with faith, we must also talk with faith. I call this our "*faith-talk*". What is "*faith-talk*"? "*Faith-Talk*" is what we confess with our mouth. To understand "*faith-talk*" we must understand what "confessing with your mouth" means. Whenever we hear the word confession, we immediately think of sin and confessing our sins. However, there is another aspect of confession we often do not talk about. That is the confession of faith; believing, and speaking in line with the Word of God. Mark 11:23 says "*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say (confess) unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart (believe), but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*" kjv

Believing and confessing go together. What is in the heart comes out of the mouth. It is as simple as this; if we do not believe and trust what God's Word says, what we confess (speak out of our mouth) will be words of doubt. If we believe and trust the Word of God, what we confess (speak out of our mouth) will be words of victory or the expectation of victory. If you are not talking "*faith-talk*" your words are confessing unbelief and/or uncertainty that glorifies the devil and is an unconscious declaration that God is a failure.

We must also be careful that we do not allow others around us to influence us with their unbelief. Sometimes you have to have what we call "tunnel vision" and purposely not pay attention to what others are saying. Even if folks look at you like you are crazy and tell you what you are trusting and believing God for will never happen, you have to continue to confess your words of faith and continue to walk your "*faith-walk*".

Fear is another tactic Satan uses to attack our faith. Fear is one of the strongest emotions known to man. It can paralyze us and cripple our walk with God. The stronger your fear, the stronger the grip Satan has upon you. Satan plants "*what if*" thoughts in our mind, and before we know it we are thinking failure not victory. Fear comes when we are concentrating more on how things look in the natural rather than on how things will be once God's supernatural power moves in the situation. Satan uses fear to try to get us to lose faith but what does our weapon (*the Word*) tell us? II Timothy 1:7 tell us "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*" kjv Bottom line -- no if-ands-or-buts -- fear is not of God, it is of the devil. Have you ever noticed in the Bible, how many times God told His children "fear not"? There is a quote I once read, the author is unknown. It says: *My savior's power is given me to meet his every call; his promise true is always this - I will never let you fall.* Next time you find yourself becoming fearful, begin to confess your faith in God. Consider this prime time for "*faith-talk*". Immediately begin to speak words that let the devil know, you know what he is up to. The words I am talking about are what I call your *fightin'* words.

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Never under estimate the power of words. God created the entire universe with words! *Fightin'* words let the devil know you are not going down without a fight. You cannot wait until you are in the middle of the battle to try to find these *fightin'* words. These words must already be part of your arsenal. I guarantee you when you start speaking these power packed words of faith, Satan will turn and flee. Here are a few of my favorites:

- Isaiah 54:17      *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper....* kjv
- Psalms 34:19      *Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivered him out of them all.* kjv
- Philippians 4:13      *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* kjv
- Romans 8:31      *.....If God be for us, who can be against us?* kjv

In summation, faith is based upon two key elements, confidence and certainty. *Confidence*, meaning you believe in God's character, that He is who He say He is. *Certainty*, meaning you believe God's promises and that He will do what He say He will do. Walking in faith and living by faith should be every believer's goal. Commit today to live with a spirit of expectation, exhibiting confidence and certainty in God's Word as you believe and trust Him for the fulfillment of His Word as given to us in Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* kjv

# ***Prayer***

## ***Focus: Faith***

Our Dear Heavenly Father, Father of all, Father above all, for there is none greater than You. I thank You for the privilege to come before Your throne. I come as humbly as I know how, with a bowed head and a reverent heart.

Father, faith is what causes prayer to work. I know that You move as I pray in "faith", believing and trusting with a spirit of certainty that You **will** fulfill the promises of Your Word. Your Word tells us to call You and You will answer, that You will fulfill all of our needs according to Your glory.

Lord, sometimes I am weak in faith. Sometimes it seems that my faith has been overtaken with unbelief, worry and fear; all of which are Satan's strongholds. Father, I pray today that You will restore my faith that You will keep me from wavering no matter how the circumstances look to my physical eye. Your Word tells me that no weapon formed against me shall prosper and with your authority, I break the strongholds that Satan has wrapped around my faith. Help me to have a "faith-walk" and a "faith-talk" of living and believing Your Word.

Lord, help me to remember it is not the amount of faith but the kind of faith that I have that matters. Is it faith that bends over until it is face down in the storm or is it faith that stands tall with fighting power. Your Word says that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains. Father today, I claim hold to Your Word and a renewed faith. I thank You for what You are doing in my life at this moment and what You shall do for me in the future. These and all blessings I ask in Your precious name, Your holy name, with thanksgiving and great expectation. Amen.

## **HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?**

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

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