

## **WHEN FAITH SEEMS INEFFECTIVE (2015-6-28 SAM)**

(Paragraphs marked by bullets were words given by the Holy Spirit.)

► Just because a human can speak, think and develop thoughts does not mean he or she is intelligent or possessing functional wisdom about his or her life. Animals can do all of these things. The fact that we are able to understand the speech of a human leads us to assume that the person is intelligent and somewhat knowledgeable and wise about life. If the person is a Christian of age (say, 40 and older), who has been a Christian for a reasonable number of years and who attends a church that focuses on Jesus and the Bible, we subconsciously assign intelligence, wisdom and knowledge to that person concerning the things of Christianity and Kingdom living. Doing so is a HUGE mistake. The ability to somewhat effectively communicate to others things identified in the Bible and related to living as a Christian does not in any way indicate a qualified level of intelligence, knowledge and wisdom about the fullness of truth as revealed by the Bible. This is true for all Christians, including those in ministry. Some of the most ignorant and stubborn Christians regularly stand behind pulpits. *[This impacts our faith because as we esteem the words of others to be credible, we receive what they say.]*

► Christians justify a lack of faith by creating doctrines and teachings that accommodate their unbelief.

**Romans 4:18** Abraham believed according to that which was spoken.

**John 20:19-20, 24-29** Thomas is proof is that some people will see the power of God at work, hear the truth of God taught, and experience the presence of Jesus...yet refuse to believe a truth no matter who shares it.

► When you become accustomed to, comfortable and content with non-Kingdom conditions, you will not seek to develop and release faith to bring about change.

**Matt 17:20...Luke 1:37 & Matt 19:26...Mark 9:23...Mark 10:27**

► The power of God is always present. It is capable of doing anything, including healing. Faith is like a bridge that enables God's power to flow from the spirit into the natural.

► Many Christians tend to get offended if you identify in a sermon that their faith is not what it could or should be. It is in false humility that you tend to admit, "Yes, my faith isn't what it should be..." If you truly believed that, you would never get offended when lack-of-faith conditions in your life are identified.

► **Mark 5:25-34** In a crowd that size, how many people do you think came in contact with Jesus' clothing? Out of those, do you honestly believe not one of them other than that lady had any kind of physical ailment? But she is the only one identified as having received healing and wholeness. The difference is what she believed and how she acted on what she believed. She touched the hem of His garment because she believed if she did she would be healed. Doesn't scripture say that God sent His word to heal people, that by Jesus' stripes you were healed? If you approached the Word the way she approached the hem of Jesus' garment, would you not see more healing manifest and more faith results in general?

► **Joshua 3:1-3 & James 1:17** The Holy Spirit is going to lead you into areas where you've never been. If you've never been somewhere, you aren't familiar with what is there. This requires faith that God is not leading you to a place in life for your failure and disaster. Just because you don't know what lies ahead does not mean that God is lacking that same information. If you believe God's Word, the only thing you know is that God will lead you deeper into His will and it will be for good, not for bad.

► **Romans 10:17, Jude 1:20, Psalm 119:130, Hebrews 4:12** The more you are developed in faith, the more it will automatically be demonstrated through you. The reason is because faith comes from hearing God's Word and you build yourselves up on it by praying in the Spirit. The entrance of God's Word gives you light, it gives you understanding, it divides the attitudes and beliefs of the flesh, emotions and soul from your born again spirit. Over time, the power of God's Word begins dominating how you live, think, act, talk, analyze situations, believe, and so on. Living by faith becomes a natural byproduct, not an effort. **John 15:7 & Luke 6:45**  
Living by faith and Matt 4:4 are saying the same thing.