

FLYING BY FAITH

By Leroy Hyter

“Now Faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].” Hebrews 11:1

Throughout life we are constantly faced with circumstances that reflect an image opposite to what the Word of God states. How many times have you had sickness in your body, all the while knowing that the Word of God promises divine health to every believer through Jesus’ finished work on the cross? How many times have you battled with depression, all the while knowing that the Word of God commands that we live a joy filled life? I can think of a number of times in my personal life when I was faced with the choice to either believe in the promise of God’s Word, regarding a certain situation, through faith or believe in the physical image or sense of the challenge set before me in fear. One always led to victory and the other in most cases to a sure defeat, for whenever I chose to believe and act on the Word of God I would overcome my challenges and whenever I placed more confidence in the circumstances facing me, and chose to make a fear motivated response, not based on the Word of God, my challenges usually overcame me.

It shouldn’t be surprising to us whenever we face challenging times in life. On the other hand it actually should be expected, for even Jesus promises in John 16: 33 that in this world we will have tribulations, trials, distresses and frustrations. But as we continue reading we will also see that He goes on to conclude this verse by commanding us to be of good cheer, when facing the world’s tribulations. Why? “...For He has overcome the World.” To further confirm why we as believers can be of good cheer, when challenged by the world, the Apostle John states in I John 5: 1 that *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...”* and he continues in I John 5: 4 saying this about those of us born of God.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world...” I John 5: 4

We can see from both scriptures that we have no reason to fear or stress over life's many challenges, but in turn, through Christ, we should not only be of good cheer, but also expect to be victorious in life.

Though we have determined that Jesus has already defeated the world on our behalf, there is still a key ingredient that we must apply to our lives in order for us to share in His victory and that is, we must be men and women of Faith. Let's read how the Apostle John concluded I John 5:4.

*“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith.**”* I John 5: 4

John reveals in this scripture that our faith plays a vital role in our ability to successfully overcome the world when he states that, “...*this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*” And as we further study we will discover that the Word of God also consistently confirms that it is our faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross, coupled with our faith in God's Word that gives us access to God's ability to live victoriously, as well as God's promise of salvation and life eternal.

Our opening text, Hebrews 11: 1, gives us the Biblical definition of Faith.

“Now Faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].” Hebrews 11:1 (Amplified)

Faith is defined in this scripture as the confirmation, the assurance of the things we hope for and the proof of things we do not see. For example, say we have been diagnosed with cancer and we are hoping to totally recover and live cancer free. Faith is the confirmation and assurance of that hope manifesting. Simply stated, faith is perceiving as real fact the total healing we are believing for, even when it has yet to be revealed to our physical senses of sight, touch and feelings.

The challenge many of us have I believe, when it comes to living by faith, is learning to trust in something that is not visible to the eye, or tangible to our physical senses. We often find it easier to believe in what we see and feel around us than what is unseen, yet confirmed in God's Word. But to truly live a victorious life, we must choose to live by Faith and not by sight. We

must learn to have an unwavering confidence and assurance in God's Word regardless of what we might face.

To help illustrate the type of confidence I'm speaking of let me share an experience I had sometime ago.

Once while traveling on a flight from Orlando, Florida to Detroit, Michigan I sat next to a young man that was a pilot. We talked for most of the flight about his many experiences, as well as his love for flying. Within our discussion he shared with me the certification requirements for a pilot. He told me that there were two levels of flying certification that had to be obtained before one was certified to fly any where in the world and under any weather conditions. The first level of flight certification, of course after being approved to fly solo, was one's certification to fly by visuals, which I later learned, from a close friend who happens to be a pilot, that this is properly termed as a VFR license, Visual Flight Rules license. This means that the pilot can fly as long as the weather is clear. He is not certified to fly during bad weather or through cloudy conditions. The second certification was one's certified approval to fly by the instrument panel of the plane. Once again my friend informed me that this is properly termed as a IFR license, Instrument Flight Rule License. This pilot, once certified, could fly anywhere and during any weather conditions.

I asked the young pilot to explain the difference between the two licenses. He said that the pilot who is only licensed to fly by his visuals is only trained to operate the plane based on what he sees before him through the windshield of the plane. Though he is trained to use the instrument panel on a certain level, he is only allowed to fly when he can clearly see three miles ahead, because most all of his judgments in operating the plane is based on what he visually sees outside. A pilot who has obtained his IFR license, he stated, was one who had been trained to fly the plane simply by the instruments of the plane alone. So during bad weather or when flying under cloudy conditions he makes no judgments during his flight by what is visually seen outside of the plane. He operates the plane solely on the readings of the instrument panel. This makes it possible for him to fly anywhere in the world and under bad weather conditions.

To further illustrate his point he stated that there are often times where pilots, who have yet to receive their license to fly by the Instrument panel, still attempt to fly through bad weather or through conditions when proper

judgments can't be made by what is seen visually, these flights many times end tragically. An example of that, he said, could be seen in the tragic death of John F. Kennedy Jr., who was licensed to fly by his visuals but not by the instrument panel. Upon taking off from the airport later than planned, he unexpectedly ended up flying at night over an open sea, and being that it was dark, as well as the fact that there was no visible horizon, made the plane impossible to fly properly by visuals alone. His inability to fly by the instrument panel, many believe, was the cause of his losing control of the plane and crashing.

I shared this story with you today because I believe it helps to illustrate in many ways the type of confidence and faith we must have in the spiritual instrument panel of God's Word, as we navigate our way through life. We, like the pilot certified to fly by visuals, once lived much of our life making judgments and decisions mainly based on the visual images before us. When we were sick, we confessed words and responded to life in sickness, when we felt sad we spoke words of sadness and embraced our state of depression as our present reality. Yet as believers we now have the right and privilege to respond to life solely based on the promises of God's Word, much like the pilot who flew solely by the instrument readings of his plane. So when we face the storms of life, when life surrounds us with cloudy conditions, we can focus and look only to the word of God, and willfully choose to make all of our judgments and decisions based off of the truths of His many promises and not our physical senses.

I mentioned earlier that I had a friend that was also a pilot. When I spoke to him about what I was going to write about, he confirmed what the young man that I spoke with on the plane had said, but he went on to add one point. He said that when the weather is clear, the pilot trained to fly by the instruments, though he can and will look out of the window of the plane while flying, will still strongly depend on his instrument panel just to be sure the plane is on course. But whenever a storm arrives or cloudy conditions appear he is instructed not to even look outside of the window of the plane, but to keep his eyes only on the reading of the instruments.

We need to apply the same practice to our walk of faith. When life is sunny and all appears to be going well it doesn't hurt for us to make judgments and decisions somewhat influenced by the conditions we see surrounding us, as long as we use the Word of God to keep us on course. But when a storm

arrives and when life is cloudy and trying, we need to take our focus off of the image before us and place it only on the written Word of God.

Today you may be facing a storm of financial lack and it may appear to your senses that you are going under. But God's Word promises that *He will supply all of your needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4: 19). Today you might be one who feels as if his/her life is at its end, nothings is working out, causing you much sadness and depression. But God says in His Word that, *He will give you beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness* (Isaiah 61: 3). So if that is you today, take your focus off of your troubles and look only to God's Word through faith, when you do I promise you will experience victory every time.

So as children of God let us learn to fly by Faith, trusting solely in God's Words and Promises. Let us make a decision to base our judgments and motivated actions on the promises of God and not our circumstances. We must be pilots skilled not only in our ability to fly by what we see around us, but more importantly to fly by the instrument panel of God's Word. Let's be pilots of life who fly by Faith, a Faith and trust in God through Christ Jesus, and a Faith and confident assurance in His Word written and spoken. Let's Fly by Faith.