

Apostolic "Faith Message"

The "Faith Message" of the 70's and 80's has been discarded by many as "extreme or hyper." Many others who actually learned the message, have "let it slip" and gone back to "walking by sight." Someone may well accuse me of being in the "Faith Camp" after reading this bit of "apostolic advice," but first let's look at Apostle Paul's version of the Faith Message.

Paul had a more profound "revelation of redemption" than any other New Testament writer, he especially understood the triune makeup of man and the connection between the "heart and mouth".

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the HEART man believes unto righteousness, and with the MOUTH confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:8-10

"And since we have the same SPIRIT OF FAITH, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED and therefore I SPOKE", we also believe and therefore speak". 2 Cor. 4:13

Apostle Jesus operated in the same "faith revelation" as Paul, in fact, Jesus Himself taught it to Paul. Both Jesus and Paul operated from the "spirit man" and not from "reason or sense realm," that is why they had "apostolic miracles". (Acts 3:16)

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and cast into the sea, and does not DOUBT IN HIS HEART, but BELIEVE that those things which he SAYS will be done, he will have whatever he SAYS." Mark 11:23

Actually, the "apostolic faith message" seems "foolish" to the natural mind because the natural mind operates according to the "five senses." The "faith message" Paul and Jesus taught was based upon a "sixth sense", that is described in Hebrews 11:1 Amplified,

"Now FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [FAITH PERCEIVING AS A REAL FACT WHAT IS NOT REVEALED TO THE SENSES]."

This is an amazing statement, "faith perceives as real fact what is not revealed to the senses." I think it means the same as "believing with the heart" that Paul teaches us about, it is the sixth sense of the spirit man. According to this verse, "faith can perceive a reality that the five senses cannot perceive because it is revelatory in nature." That revelation is the Word of God to the individual that has received it, and therefore begins to speak it out of the abundance of the heart. We can simply say that "walking by faith"

is walking by the “sixth sense” of the heart, independently of the five senses which have not yet perceived the reality the heart of man has perceived from the Spirit of God. Abraham operated in this kind of faith when he refused to consider his *“own body now dead, nor yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb.”* Abraham *“believed according to that which was spoken,”* not that which he perceived in the five sense realm. We are told to *“walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham”* in Romans 4:12.

Abraham *“believed in the heart and spoke with the mouth.”* Paul said that Abraham *“called the things which be not, as though they were.”* If God said he was now *“Abraham, the father of a multitude.”* than Abraham was going to say it as well even though he had no proof in the five sense realm. That was *“calling things that be not as though they were.”* ***He had faith, the perception of a reality that had not been revealed to the senses,” he walked by the sixth sense.***

This is the apostolic faith message we can plainly see in scripture. I believe we need a “fresh emphasis” of this message in the Body of Christ as a part of the Apostolic Reformation, since it was an apostolic message to begin with. We need more faith in these perilous times, more teaching on faith until we raise people to a level of receiving from God what Christ has died to provide for them. The writer to Hebrews told us that *“the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”*

During the early 90’s, I traveled as an evangelist for a historic Pentecostal denomination, conducting healing meetings across the US. God was healing as I preached the Word of Faith from the New Testament. Headquarters was so moved by the testimonies that I was asked to write a section in a manual to be used for all new believers in this organization. After I wrote it the leadership rejected it saying it was “too Word of Faith.” Amazingly, I had quoted from original Sunday School literature of this organization dated in the 50’s that clearly taught the same thing I was then teaching. It is amazing how in such a short period of time we can lose a truth that was so real to our hearts. Jesus said it like this in Luke 18:8, *“Shall the Son of Man find FAITH on the earth when He comes.”* This statement seems to make “faith preaching” an “end time message”. Let’s revive this message for today’s church who haven’t yet learned to “walk by faith and not by sight.”