

Apostolic Faith

Jesus Christ, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession lived at the highest level of faith possible to a human being. He taught the disciples about various levels of faith when he spoke of "little faith", "no faith", "strong faith" and "great faith". Paul told the Thessalonians that their "faith grew exceedingly", affirming the fact that our faith can increase as we walk with God and learn more about His character and plan for our lives. Having been part of "restoration revival" since 1974, I have been a partaker of the message of the great faith teachers of the Charismatic movement. After traveling as an evangelist for the denomination I served at that time, and seeing a measure of success in praying for the sick, I was asked to write a section in the Doctrinal Manual for the organization. This assignment led me to study the teachings of the historic Pentecostal movements where I found that the revelation of "faith" was the same among the Pentecostals whose major contributors were TL Osborn, Gordon Lindsay, FF Bosworth, AA Allen, Oral Roberts, EW Kenyon and others. I found the same vein of truth running consistently in regards to faith and how it works. The apostles who trumpeted this message were releasing the "life force" into the Body of Christ, "the just shall live by faith". For a believer to live in constant victory they must understand the message of faith, "this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith". It seems the early apostles majored on this message, even calling the Christian message the "Word of Faith", taking many passages of scripture to explain how faith comes, how it works, who has it, what it can do, and why the believer sometimes fails to walk in faith.

People coming into the apostolic/prophetic from mainstream backgrounds may have totally missed the message and as a result, may be trying to live this life on experiences or gifts of the Spirit only. Paul told the Thessalonians that he desired to "fill up that which was lacking in their faith". His apostolic goal was that their faith be operating at maximum potential, producing the mighty works that only faith can produce. "Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith". A faith for the miraculous cannot be produced in the believer without a clear understanding of the working of faith as it has been presented to us from Holy Spirit thru the teaching ministry gifts. Many believers who understand the prophetic ministry, and apostolic government are still living defeated lives as a result of not knowing or applying the principles of bible faith. In Acts 3:1-16 we learn that these early apostles had faith that released miraculous power into the lame man, "faith in the name of Jesus" made the man whole. The apostolic faith

level was so high that the deacons were inspired to be "full of faith" and work miracles among the people. It seems that the goal of scripture is to school people into faith so they can appropriate the finished work of Christ into their lives, and God can be glorified as a result. As I read scripture, it becomes ever more clear that the message of faith was and is central to the apostolic doctrine.