

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2024**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
GALATIANS**

Message Six

Receiving the Spirit by the Hearing of Faith

Scripture Reading: Gal. 3:2, 5; Phil. 1:19

I. God's eternal economy is a matter of supplying and receiving the Spirit by the hearing of faith; day by day God supplies the Spirit, and day by day we receive the supply of the Spirit; the Spirit with whom we are supplied and the Spirit whom we receive are the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—Gal. 3:2, 5; Phil. 1:19:

- A. The overcomers adopt the attitude of a hearer; they know that their lives depend on the Lord's words and their work depends on the Lord's commands—Rev. 2:7; Isa. 50:4-5.
- B. They realize that without the Lord's words, they will not have any revelation, light, or knowledge; the life of the believers hinges totally upon the Lord's speaking—Eph. 5:26; S. S. 8:13-14; Psa. 119:140.

II. Faith is the substantiation of God's facts:

- A. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"; the word *substantiation* means the capacity to make something real (colors are substantiated by our eyes, sounds by our ears, etc.); thus, it is one thing for objects to exist, and it is another thing for these things to be substantiated.
- B. All of God's facts recorded in the Bible are real; however, these facts can only be substantiated by faith, because faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen; in spiritual things seeing depends upon hearing; John first heard the voice and then saw the vision—Rev. 1:10, 12.
- C. Faith is a substantiating ability, a sixth sense, the sense by which we substantiate, give substance to, the things unseen or hoped for—Heb. 11:1:
 - 1. Substantiating is the ability which enables us to realize a substance.
 - 2. The function of our five senses is to substantiate the things of the outside world, transferring all the objective items into us to become our subjective experience.
 - 3. As the eye is to seeing, the ear to hearing, and the nose to smelling, so faith, our spirit of faith, is the organ whereby we substantiate everything in the unseen spiritual world into us—2 Cor. 4:13.
 - 4. We must exercise our spirit of faith, our mingled spirit, to believe and to speak the things we have experienced of the Lord; faith is in our spirit, which is mingled with the Holy Spirit, not in our mind; doubts are in our mind.
 - 5. "We do not regard," look at, "the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (v. 18); the Christian life is a life of things unseen (Rom. 8:24-25; Heb. 11:27; 1 Pet. 1:8; Gal. 6:10).
 - 6. The degradation of the church is the degradation from unseen things to seen things; the Lord's recovery is to recover His church from things seen to things unseen.

- D. Believing is exercising our spirit of faith (2 Cor. 4:13) to substantiate the accomplished facts of Christ's person, living, and work; that is, they must be made real to us; once we believe by saying Amen to God's word, we substantiate the divine facts, and we have them; *Amen* does not mean a wish for something to be accomplished, but a declaration that it will surely be accomplished, and that there is no doubt about it; when we believe, we are accepting what the Lord has already promised to do.
- E. God's economy is initiated and developed in the sphere of faith (1 Tim. 1:4); the Christian life is a life of faith, a life of believing (Gal. 3:2, 14); we do not live according to what we see; we live according to what we believe (John 20:25-29).

III. Faith means that we believe that God is and we are not—Heb. 11:5-6; 2 Cor. 4:13, 18:

- A. Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to God, to make God happy—Heb. 11:6a.
- B. To believe that God is, is to believe that He is everything to us and that we are nothing—John 8:58; Eccl. 1:2.
- C. To believe that God is implies that we are not; He must be the only One, the unique One, in everything, and we must be nothing in everything—Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5.
- D. To believe that God is, is to deny our self; in the whole universe He is, and all of us are nothing—Luke 9:23.
- E. I should not be anything; I should not exist; only He should exist—"it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ"—Gal. 2:20.
- F. At his conversion the Lord told Saul of Tarsus, "I am Jesus"—Acts 9:5:
 1. The Lord was saying, "I am the great I Am; I am the One who is; you must believe that I am and you are not."
 2. Eventually, Saul was over, and Paul came up—13:9.
- G. This is faith—"O the joy of having nothing and being nothing, seeing nothing but a living Christ in glory, and being careful for nothing but His interests down here"—J. N. Darby.
- H. Before Enoch's translation, he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God (Heb. 11:5-6); Enoch continually walked upward with God day and night for three centuries, exercising his faith to believe that God is, becoming closer to God and more one with God each day until "he was not, for God took him"—Gen. 5:22-24; cf. S. S. 8:5a.

IV. We need to be those who are looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith; He is the Author of faith, the Originator, the Inaugurator, the source, and the cause of faith, and He is the Finisher, the Completer, of our faith—Heb. 12:2a:

- A. The wonderful Jesus, who is enthroned in heaven and crowned with glory and honor (2:9), is the greatest attraction in the universe:
 1. He is like an immense magnet, drawing all His seekers to Himself; it is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him.
 2. Without such a charming object, how could we look away from so many distracting things on the earth?
- B. When we look away unto Jesus, He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) transfuses us with Himself, with His believing element.
- C. This faith is not of ourselves but of Him who imparts Himself as the believing element into us that He may believe for us.

- D. When we look away unto Him, He ministers heaven, life, and strength to us, trans-fusing and infusing us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race and live the heavenly life on earth—2 Cor. 3:18.
- E. We need to look away unto Jesus with undivided attention by turning away from every other object—Heb. 12:1-2; S. S. 1:4; Psa. 27:4.
- F. The faith of the believers is actually not their own faith but Christ entering into them to be their faith—Rom. 3:22 and footnote 1; Gal. 2:16 and footnote 1:
 - 1. Our believing is our appreciation of Christ as a reaction to His attraction—Rom. 10:17.
 - 2. In our natural man we have no believing ability; we do not have faith by ourselves; the faith by which we are saved is the precious faith that we have received from the Lord, the God-allotted faith—2 Pet. 1:1; Col. 1:12.
- G. Our regenerated spirit, our spirit of faith, is the victory that overcomes the Satan-organized-and-usurped world (1 John 5:4); the great irrepressible and unlimited power of faith motivates thousands to suffer for the Lord, risk their lives, and become over-coming sent ones and martyrs for the carrying out of God’s eternal economy, which is in faith—Luke 18:8; Phil. 2:30; Rom. 16:3-4; Acts 20:24; 1 Tim. 1:4.

V. In order to be men full of faith (Heb. 13:7; Acts 6:5), we need to see that “faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17):

- A. The source of faith is the word, but we have to realize the crystallization of this point; there are three aspects of the word:
 - 1. First, there is the written word of God—the Bible—John 10:35.
 - 2. Then there is the living word of God—Christ—1:1.
 - 3. Finally, there is the applied word of God—the Spirit—Eph. 6:17; John 6:63.
- B. The written word, the living word, and the applied word refer to God Himself; God’s written word in the Bible becomes Christ as the living word, who is applied to us as the Spirit, the word of the Spirit; the more that God is gained by us in this way, the more He becomes our faith.
- C. The crystallization of the source of faith is God in His written word contacted as the living word and applied as the word of the Spirit so that we can gain the Triune God, who is able to call the things not being as being and give life to the dead—Rom. 4:17.

VI. Faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return—this is based on Luke 18:8, where the Lord said, “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”:

- A. May the Lord be merciful to us that when He comes back, He can find us as the believing ones, who always trust in Him, not in ourselves, and who always have no assurance in ourselves—2 Cor. 1:8-9; John 15:5; Phil. 3:3; cf. S. S. 8:5.
- B. Today we are making ourselves ready to be His bride (Matt. 25:10; Rev. 19:7-9); to make ourselves ready is to become an overcomer, who is always linked by the living faith with the Triune God.
- C. The overcomers who live by faith will be rewarded by Christ with the co-kingship and the top enjoyment of the divine life with Him in the millennium (20:4, 6); the Lord will then say to His overcomers, “Well done, good and faithful slave...Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21, 23).