



See

BEYOND

YOUR

CIRCUMSTANCES

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*You can come through*

**Acknowledg**

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I give God all the glory for seeing me through.

# DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the almighty, faithful God for the grace and knowledge He granted me in writing. In thanksgiving for who He is.

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# INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, there are a lot of things that demands attention, such that unconsciously one may take up more time in other to meet up with one's responsibility. There are times when the weight of responsibility is so heavy that the pressures lead to depression, confusion, pain and anguish. Though life provides us with valleys we ought to climb, it also provides us mountains too.

Like other people, who have sown the seed of faith, one can actually look beyond one's circumstances and look to God.

When a person hands over circumstances to God, He takes over especially when the person comes from the point of faith. He accepts and gives a lasting solution to the burden. In psalm 55:22 He tells us, "cast your burdens on the lord and He will sustain you, He will never permit the righteous to be moved". In Matthew 7:7 He says, "ask and it will be given to you".

God being our creator know all that our hearts longs for. He wants us to submit our burdens to Him. He says, "Ask and it shall be given to you". Therefore, when we ask with faith, He answers provided there are no barriers hindering the answers to our petitions.

The aim of this book is to help the believer strengthen faith as it is impossible to please God without faith. Hebrew11:6, "And

without faith, it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him”.

# CHAPTER ONE

## THE MEANING OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”. This is the simplest definition of faith. It is also the ability to believe even when there is no sign that the thing hoped for will be received.

Faith, as a gift is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5: 22, “By contract, the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”.

In Mathew 17:20, “He said to them, because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there’, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you”. You see, for him that believes nothing is impossible.

Now the question stands out, “Is your faith the size of a mustard seed?” If you have ever seen a mustard seed, then you will know indeed how very little it is. For those of us who are not fortunate enough to have the seed in their country. A mustard seed can be likened to the size of a tip of a well sharpened pencil.

It is so tiny, but yet that is just the size required to move a mountain. In this context, a mountain represents the problems of life which can be so big that one could wish to die rather than face the problem.

In life situations, you find out that the faith of a believer is smaller than the size of mustard seed. And at other times a Believer has no faith at all. How do you think you can please God when you have no faith?

Life can be very frustrating that one wonders if there is God at all. Science cannot prove to you there is God, because God is far beyond scientific explanation. You cannot even believe the fact there is a living God if you have no faith. If you must seek God, you must believe that God exist and only then can you seek God and find Him. For sure, He rewards those who seek Him. If you have no faith, ask God who gives in abundance and He will give you according to His riches in heaven.

As a believer, if you do not have faith, you will be tossed around by the burdens of life, just as the wind tosses around the ship/ boat that have lost its control in the sea. Lack of faith, can be compared to losing control.

Brethren, it is important to have faith because without faith you cannot stand against the wails of the devil. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of the present

darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”. Ephesians 6: 11-12.

Faith is among the armors of God. Ephesians 6:13-17.

“Therefore let us take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplates of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all these take shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God”.

Many a time we experience doubt and in such moments it is very difficult to have faith. But we are to believe without doubt, for without doubt in faith; faith no matter how little can move mountains”.

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we work by faith not by sight”. Yes we should work by faith not by sight for faith is beyond what we see. Faith can be described as seeing with the eye of the spirit what cannot be seen with the physical eyes.

Again, if you do not have faith or you want an increase in faith, ask God to give you faith by His grace and He will.

Hebrews 11:4 “By faith, Abel offered a more pleasing sacrifice than Cain. Through this he received approval as

righteous, God Himself, giving approval of his gifts; he died but through faith, he still speaks.

Remember the account of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4: 1-16) in this story, Cain and Abel made separate offerings to God. Cain is a tiller of ground; therefore he brought the fruits of the ground. Abel was a keeper of sheep and therefore offered God the firstlings of his flock and some fat as well. God accepted Abel's offering. Since God accepted Abel's offering, it means that he brought his offering to God with faith. But God did not accept Cain's offering, this means Cain did not approach God by faith, therefore his offering was not pleasing to God. For God is neither a human being nor an animal that feeds on vegetable, meat and fat of animals. Abel was killed by his brother Cain, because God accepted his offering. But still, being a man of faith, his blood pleaded for vengeance against Cain. And God took revenge on Cain on Abel's behalf. If God was not pleased with Abel, He would not have swung into action.

Also the story of Noah. (Genesis chapter 6 : 1 – chapter 9: 28) Noah worked with God, without faith it is impossible to please God, let alone work with Him. It is through faith that one can work with God. Noah was a man blameless in his generation. He was a righteous man. Just by the faith of one man, humanity was preserved for according to Genesis 6:7 The Lord said, "I

will not blot out from the earth, the human beings I have created- people together with animals and creeping things, and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I made them”.

God wanted to wipe out everything He has created under the heaven but because Noah was favored by God, He [God] preserved him and his family; also He preserved some part of everything that was created. Therefore God informed him (Noah) of His plan and asked him to build the ark. Without a strong faith in God, how could this be? Without Noah’s faith you and I will not have been preserved. The faith of the Christian hero (past and present) has indirectly kept us till now.

It is possible that at that time people laughed at and ridiculed Noah while he was building the ark thinking it was a sin of stupidity.

Noah was able to see beyond human imagination what God will do irrespective of the challenges he must have encountered at that time.

He believed and looked beyond the circumstances and after playing his part, God played His own part, by shutting the door of the ark and causing the flood to start. Noah allowed himself to look beyond; he believed and did not relax in his work.

Also the apostles of Jesus Christ at that time of persecution did not relent in carrying out the activities

that caused the gospel to spread. They were even willing to die for the sake of the gospel they believed in. This happened this way because they looked beyond their present situations and saw that their sufferings will bring salvation to those that believed and accepted Jesus Christ as their lord and personal savior. They looked beyond and saw that by the virtue of their suffering, people will be healed in the name of Jesus, people will be liberated in the name of Jesus. Therefore their suffering though so painful was not regarded as pain in their mind and soul. No amount of persecution was able to overcome their faith for they believed strongly in God. So many a times as believers, we suffer directly or indirectly. At such moments we complain, fret or fume. By taking up negative actions as these our faith in God reduces and becomes weak instead of waxing stronger and stronger. It is wise to offer one's suffering to God and ask him to increase our faith in him in the process.

But with faith, it is impossible to please God and also impossible to obtain anything from God without faith. In Matthew 17: 20-21, Jesus says to his apostle ".....because of your little faith, For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you".

Also James 4: 5-8 says, “ If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God who gives all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to you. But ask in faith and never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For the doubter being double minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord”.

With these two references from the bible, you see that when you doubt when asking God, you cannot receive anything from Him when in doubt, but when your faith is as small as a mustard seed without any form of doubt in what God can do, you can say to the mountain (your troubles) to move from here to there and it will.

It is better to ask with faith as small as mustard seed and receive what you want instead of asking with a big faith and doubt for when you doubt you will not receive.

In Exodus 15:19, (when the horses of Pharaoh with their chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the Israelites walked on the sea on dry ground”.

See also Hebrews 11:29

“By faith the people passed through the red sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

Humanly speaking, it is impossible for a water body as big as a sea to divide, let alone people passing through a

divided sea on dry land. Can't you see that there is nothing impossible for God and nothing impossible for you when you have faith in God?

# CHAPTER TWO

## THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

Abraham till today is known as the father of faith. Abraham lived his whole life showing he had faith in God as recorded in the book of genesis. From when God called him to when God called Abraham to make a sacrifice on to Him.

God called Abraham saying, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you". Genesis 12:1 Abraham not knowing the land God was sending him to, began the journey believing God to be faithful with his words. And God played His part because He does not fail.

This shows that in everything we do in life, if we play our own part, God will play His part as far as we remain obedient to him and committed to His ways. It is a choice one has to make for oneself. Most times we are the ones preventing God from fulfilling His words in our life because we have not yet obeyed.

Again Abraham manifested this great faith in God when he attempted to sacrifice his only son. Abraham was already 100 years of age when Isaac was born. God tested Abraham by commanding him to take his son Isaac whom he loved and offer as a burnt offering on one

of the mountains He will show him. Genesis 22: 1-19. Imagine this; you are 100 years of age before God gave you a son. After some years, when the boy is grown a little God now tells you to sacrifice this same boy on a certain mountain he will reveal to you. How would you feel if God promised to give you a certain thing that is very important to you? Later the same God, is now asking you to sacrifice that special thing he gave to you.

This is exactly what happened to Abraham, You know what Abraham did. He believed God and decided to sacrifice his boy Isaac to God because he knew that God who promised him that his own very son from Sarah will be his covenant heir not the son from his maid servant, is faithful to fulfill his word over and over again. He believed God. As the story continued, Abraham took two of his young men, his son Isaac and saddled on his donkey to the distance God has shown him in the early morning. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. He asked his young men to stay with the donkey, while himself and the boy will go over there and worship God. Also Abraham took with him the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, while he carried the fire and the knife. The two of them walked together. His son said to him, "The fire and the wood is here but where is the lamb for the burnt offering" Abraham said to him, "God himself will provide the lamb

for burnt offering, my son". When they came to the place God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of God called him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham! He said "here I am". He (angel) said to him, "do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you had not withheld your son, your only son from me. Abraham looked up and saw the ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. He went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son. I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is at the sea shore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessings for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice".

Abraham believed God without doubting. He would have offered his son if God had not provided the ram. He believed, therefore he did not lose his son; God provided him a ram and blessed him more and even blessed his

descendants and all the nations of the earth. Oh! What a loving God.

Brethrens you see the essence of having faith in God cannot be over emphasized. When you have faith in God, you believe His words and trust Him because of his words does not fail. It is not enough believing only the word of God in the bible, you should also believe the promptings and words He gives you in your heart. You have to believe without doubting only then can you experience in your life His power and his presence.

When you have faith in God, you will see that there is no need to be bothered or worried. You will see that there is no need to be afraid. All you have to do is to just trust god and play your part by doing what you have to do and believing Him to play His all part.

For instance, if you read through the bible, you will see that God fulfilled all the promises He made to Abraham. Yes! He gave him a son, gave the Promised Land which He promised He would give the descendants of Abraham. Of course He made his children as countless as the stars on the heavens, and sand at the seashore. Till now God is still fulfilling the promises he made to Abraham. In Genesis 22:18 “and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice”.

If you make a diligent search and examine the life of some believers who have faith in God, you will see that even in our own days God is still God and have not changed, though we ourselves and the world around us change, but God is still unchangeable. Even in my own very life God has not changed. He has always kept to his words, even when I was shaken by the events of life; God still remained God and did not change. Just have faith in God you will see that He is still the same God of ages.

# CHAPTER THREE

## THE FAITH OF MOSES

Moses is another man who lived his life demonstrating faith in God. You will see a summary of Moses' life in the book of Hebrews 11:23-28. Moses was born of Levite parents. Then the Israelites' suffered oppression. The mother saw he was a fine baby though Pharaoh of that time commanded that every boy born of the Hebrew should be thrown into the Nile and every girl should be left to live. She was not afraid of Pharaoh's order; she spared her baby's life. Instead of letting go of her baby, she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch. She put her baby in there and placed it among the reeds on the bank and asked her sister to stand at a distance and watch what would happen to him. This act of faith by the mother of Moses began the whole story of Moses. If the mother had not exercised faith and taken that great step properly, we would not have Moses as a hero of faith. Through Moses, God showed himself as God of signs and wonders. (Exodus chapter 7 – chapter 13). God did so many signs and wonders, namely: plagues of turning water to blood, plague of frogs, plague of gnats, plague of diseased livestock, plague of flies, plague of boils, plague of thunder and

hail, plague of locust, plague of darkness and finally plague of death of firstborn. It is not that Pharaoh was human enough to let the people of Israel go, God hardened the heart of pharaoh , thereby administering judgment on pharaoh , his officials and the people of Egypt.

Even God led the people of Israel out of Egypt; He did not leave them to go alone. He was with them, in front of them as a pillar of cloud by the day and a pillar of fire by night. He did this so that they could travel day and night. God performed still greater miracle as the Israelites crossed the red sea by asking Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it so that the Israelites can pass on dry ground. God fully aware that the Egyptian pharaoh and his men were still after them, He protected and shielded them from the Egyptian by changing His position, He took His place behind them instead of before them. This happened as the angel of the Lord went behind the Israelite army. The pillar of cloud was between the army of Egyptian and army of Israel. Therefore the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night. That night the Israelites and the Egyptians did not come near each other. Moses obeyed and stretched his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night

and turned the sea into a dry land and the waters divided.

God will always involve us in whatever He wants to do for us. We are not left out of God's work for us. Having faith in God and obeying Him attracts God presence into our life and makes Him do supernatural things in our life and in the life of others.

The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground while the water formed a wall by their right and left. As the Israelites went into the sea, The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, none of them left out. Just then, the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud at the morning watch, looked down upon the Egyptians army and threw them into a panic. God clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians were trying to flee when they realized that the Lord was fighting for the Israelites but already, it was too late for them to turn back.

Therefore the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may turn back upon the Egyptians....". Moses obeyed, at dawn, the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the Sea. Not one of them remained but the Israelites were safe.

The sovereign God saved the Israel on that day from the Egyptians, And Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

What a mighty deliverance for Israel. God can do same in your life if only you have faith in Him and obey Him.

There is one thing that pushes us away from God, it is sin. It is not that God does not hear when we pray, but our sins prevent us from getting to Him. We can live a sinless life not by self righteousness but by asking the Holy Spirit to prune us and by asking God to grant us the grace to stand above sin.

The life of Moses is filled with miraculous events of what can be when we have faith in God. When believers have faith in God, unbelievable miraculous events are witnessed by everyone. With faith in God, you can conquer all trials that come your way.

As a believer, your faith is your boldness in Christ Jesus whatever we ask according to His will, He does for us. Since He hears us, we have obtained our requests from Him. You may ask what His will is. Gods will is listed all through the bible and include:

That we be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. (Genesis 1:28)

God's will is that we obey him. God's will is that we join hands and build His kingdom by loving our neighbors [everyone] as ourselves and forgiving others just as He forgives us our sin.

God's will is that we keep His commandment. God's will is that we accept the gospel of Christ and the gift of the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit.

God's will is that we live as pilgrims being conscious of the fact that our target is to be with Him in heaven.

God's will is that we live our life being Christ like.

God's will is that we use our talents and gifts to please Him not only in the church but in every other aspect of our life.

God's will is that we love Him and put Him first in everything we do.

## **TAKING JESUS AS EXAMPLE**

God loves us so much that He gave us His only begotten son to die for us and pay as ransom for our sins. This means that each one of us is important to God that He had to give up His holy begotten son which is also important to Him. That is to say God gave up Himself for our sake. Every soul is important to God. The soul is the essence of every human being. By the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross we are made whole, we are made whole and healed from all forms disease and strong hold. We are also saved. Jesus is the solution to every problem. All we have to do is just have faith and believe in Jesus since we have a great cloud of heroes of faith.

Let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us looking to Jesus the author of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that is set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame and have taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrew 12:2)

If we keep looking at our present circumstances imaging how bad things are, we end up remaining in those circumstances and perhaps things get worse than they are.

The mind only gives to you back what you give to it. If you only think of bad occurrences, then you will experience more of bad occurrences.

Look beyond your circumstances. In your mind see things to be much better than they are. Have faith in God and always believe in Him. Look above your circumstances not below it. Always view things from a positive angle and you will experience the goodness that life offers.