

7 Faith Moves

I. The Activity of Faith

James 2:17-19 (NIV)

. . . faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.

A. Repentance

B. Healing

C. Abundance

D. Deliverance . . . strong man fully armed

Luke 11:21-23 (NIV)

²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. ²³ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

Ephesians 6:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. . . . ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

E. God's best . . . go sell your possessions, follow me

Matthew 19:18-22 (NIV)

¹⁸ "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

❖ Our Lives are a Response to God

Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Philippians 3:4-8, 12-14 (NIV)

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. ⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ . . . ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:16-17 (MSG)

¹⁶ Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. ¹⁷ You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.

F. Direction . . . "the men did not inquire of the Lord"

Joshua 9:8-15 (NIV) Gibeonites

"Who are you and where do you come from?"⁹ They answered: "Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt,¹⁰ and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan--Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.¹¹ And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, 'Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, "We are your servants; make a treaty with us."¹² This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is.¹³ And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey."¹⁴ **The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.**¹⁵ Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

1. Inquire/instruction . . . direction

2. Seek the Lord . . . away from the Lord

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

3. Accept assignment . . . fulfillment

Exodus 3:7-8 (KJV)

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey

Philippians 2:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

G. Believing . . . today is the day of salvation

Hebrews 3:12-15 (NIV)

¹² See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.¹⁵ As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are the author of life and the sustainer of all things. By your power you establish nations and watch over your purposes. Today I offer myself as a living sacrifice to you. May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you. I put my trust in you, lead me on a triumphant path. I rejoice in my God, my strength and my redeemer. In Jesus' name, amen.