Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 7 -
Faith vs. Feelings

Central Truth: A formula for faith is: (1) Find a promise in God’s Word for whatever you are seeking, (2) Believe God’s Word, (3) Do not consider contradictory circumstances, and (4) Praise God for the answer.

The beloved man of faith, Smith Wigglesworth, once said, “I can’t understand God by feelings. I can’t understand the Lord Jesus Christ by feelings. I can only understand God the Father and Jesus Christ by what the Word says about them. God is everything the Word says He is. We need to get acquainted with Him through the Word.” Too many people try to get acquainted with God through their personal feelings. When they feel good, they think God has heard their prayers. If they don’t feel particularly good they think He has not heard them. Their faith is based on their feelings whereas it should be based on God’s word.

A ‘Thomas’ Faith

John 20:24-29

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them; then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Thomas was one who based his faith upon his feelings, upon what his physical senses told him. He said that he would not believe unless he could see with his own eyes the prints of the nails in Jesus’ hands, and touch these nail prints with his own hands. He relied on what he could see and touch, not on what God had to say. We have so many “Thomas Christian” today – those who believe only what they feel, believe only what they can see, hear, or touch. But real faith in God is based upon the Word of God. Real faith in the Word says, “If God says it is true, it is.” Believing God is believing His Word.

If God’s Word says He hears me, then I know he hears me because He says so and His Word cannot lie.
If our faith is based upon feelings, then we are just using a natural human faith. We cannot get spiritual results with natural human faith. We have to use scriptural faith, Bible faith, believing in God’s Word. If our faith is based upon the Word of God, then we believe the Word regardless of evidences that would satisfy our physical senses.

I prayed for a lady once who had been through many healing lines, and yet had never received her healing. After I prayed for her she immediately said, “I haven’t got it yet, pray again.” I prayed again and when I finished, she said the same thing.

After praying a third time with seemingly no results I asked her, “When are you going to start believing that you are healed?”

“Well,” she said, “when I get healed.”

“What in the world would you want to believe it for then? It seems to me that you would know it then.”

Anyone can believe what he can feel, hear, or see. We live and operate in the physical realm most of the time and obviously, we have to walk by sight then. But when it comes to Bible things, to spiritual things, then we don’t walk by sight – we walk by faith.

**Healing Is Spiritual**

God’s healing is spiritual healing. If medical science heals, it heals through the physical. Christian Science heals through the mind. But when God heals, He heals through the spirit.

**II Corinthians 5:17**

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Spiritual healing, or divine healing, is received from God in the same way that the new birth, which is a rebirth of the spirit, is received. When you are born again, it is not your body that is born again, for you still have the same body you always had. When Paul said, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature …,” he was not talking about man’s body being made new. It doesn’t change the physical in any way. After you are saved, the man on the inside is to dominate the physical, of course, but it is the man on the inside, the inner man, that is born again.

The new birth is the rebirth of the human spirit. Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6). A person cannot tell just by looking at someone what has happened to him on the inside, but in the process of time it will become obvious.
We have been mistaken many times when we have seen folks come to the altar, pray and cry, jump up and hug everyone around, acting so happy. Then they are never seen again. We really thought they had received something marvelous from God. But it was just an emotional something, and not the new birth. At other times we see people come to the altar for salvation. They are not emotional at all, and we wonder if they have received anything from the Lord. We might think they were not at the altar long enough for anything. Yet many of these become very outstanding Christians during their lifetimes. This is another example of faith being based upon physical senses.

I certainly believe in feeling, but I put it last. God’s Word comes first, faith in God’s Word second, and feeling last. Too many people turn it around and put feeling up front, faith in their feelings second, and the Word of God last. These people will never make a success of anything. We cannot tell immediately just what has happened on the inside of a person because it takes place in the human spirit. But if he walks in the light of what he has, it will show up on the outside.

Walking in the natural, we do have to go by our physical senses. For example, if we are crossing a street and our eyes tell us there are cars coming, we must wait until the cars pass. In many instances we have to walk by natural faith: faith in our sight, faith in our sense of smell, and faith in our feelings. But what too many people try to do is believe in God with that physical or natural faith, and if their physical senses tell them it’s not so, then they believe it’s not so. But our physical senses have nothing to do with the Bible. God’s Word is true whether we feel that it is or whether circumstances appear that it is or not. God’s Word is true. "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89).

**Formula for Faith**

Here is a formula for faith that you can make work for you. First, have God’s Word for whatever you may be seeking; second, believe God’s Word; third, refuse to consider the contradictory circumstances, or what your physical senses may tell you about it; and fourth, give praise to God for the answer. Follow these four steps, and you will always get results. These are four certain steps to deliverance, healing, answered prayer, or whatever you may be seeking from the Lord.

**Memory Text:** “For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89).

**Faith in Action:** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only…” (James 1:22).

Next Lesson - Kenneth Hagin Faith Lesson No. 8 – What It Means to Believe With the Heart (Part 1)