

THE FAITH JOURNEY

God wants to furnish His children with greater faith.

HEB 11:1 Now **faith is the substance** of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen.**

The word for substance is similar to person. So faith is the person of things hoped for. Our faith linked to the person of Christ. Our heart must desire righteousness.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart **man believeth unto righteousness;**

HEB 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;**

Jesus is not only the “author” of our faith, but He is the “finisher” of our faith. The lessons in faith are learnt by living out our faith day by day. Like the heroes of faith who have finished their faith journeys before us, we must finish as well.

ACT 17:28 For **in him we live, and move, and have our being;** as certain also of your own poets have said, For **we are also his offspring.**

Our whole being is found in Him. We are His offspring. We are joint-heirs.

HEB 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,** and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Besetting sins and unbelief weigh heavy on many. We must purpose to lay the personal weights aside in order that the spiritual race can be won.

ISA 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and **it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it;** but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein* .

LEV 11:44 For I *am* the LORD your God: **ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy:**

It is the believer’s responsibility to sanctify the inner man. Some believers would scarcely blink when reading (Heb 12:14). Naming Christ alone will not get us into heaven. Integrity of heart means making holiness our top priority.

HEB 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, **and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

God has given us a “holiness text reference” book. It is wise for the believer to learn lessons from Bible characters like Thomas. Everyone is caught out with human thinking at sometime. Surely Thomas would not have spoken the words recorded in (Jn 2:25) if he had known it would be recorded in the gospels. Faith is a journey and Thomas learnt from his mistakes fulfilling his apostolic commission by faith; later he became a martyr in Chennai, in southern India.

JN 2:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25The 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.**

JN 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: **blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.**

LUK 17:5 And **the apostles said** unto the Lord, **Increase our faith.**

Even apostles-in-training request an increase in faith. Faith remains the universal problem at all levels of Christian discipleship.

JAS 1:6 But **let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

MK 6:5 And **he could there do no mighty work**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*. 6And **he marvelled because of their unbelief.** And he went round about the villages, teaching.

In Mark chapter 6 we find a strong mindset of unbelief. The ministry of Jesus was reduced to teaching; His usual mighty works of miracles was reduced to healing a few sick folk (v.5). There is a big difference between laying hands on a few sick folk and bringing forth “mighty miracles” to multitudes. Notice the difference in attitude in Luke 4:40-42. All the sick were brought to Jesus. All the sick were healed and many were delivered of devils. Early the next day Jesus had His prayer time interrupted, where they asked Him to stay longer.

LUK 4:40 Now when the sun was setting, **all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him;** and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. 41And **devils also came out of many**, crying out, and saying, Thou

art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking *them* suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. 42And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, **that he should not depart from them.**

ACT 14:8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: 9The same heard Paul speak: **who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,** 10Said **with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.**

Like Paul we must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Many times there is a right time, a perfect moment for the miracle. If faith is perceived, then we must believe God for the miracle. Pray loudly in faith and watch God work the miracle.

MK 5:34 And he said unto her, "**Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole;** go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. (Read Mk 5:25-34)