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# CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

"NO MAN THAT WARRETH ENTANGLETH HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE, THAT HE MAY PLEASE HIM WHO HATH CHOSEN HIM TO BE A SOLDIER."

II TIMOTHY 2:4

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## BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND

**HEBREWS 11:3** BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORLDS WERE FRAMED BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN WERE NOT MADE OF THINGS WHICH ARE VISIBLE. [NKJV]

Of all the subjects in the Bible, I think faith is my favorite. It's the message I heard first after being born-again back in 1978, and it's the message that has carried me through 30 years of service to Jesus, and 28 years of full-time field ministry. I love teaching about faith, because I know what that knowledge enabled the Lord to do for me, and I know that because God is no respecter of persons, He'll do the

same for you when you choose to believe God and take Him at His Word.

For this Christian Soldier, I want to focus attention on the first four words of this verse. *By faith we understand...* In other words, everything about God, and about how He works on earth in general, and in our lives in particular, is understood first by faith. Hebrews 11:6 says without faith, its

impossible to please God. Not just hard, but impossible! Why is that? Because God is a faith Being. Everything He does – He does with and by faith. We must understand that, because we're made in His image and likeness – so He expects us to operate and live by faith just like He does.

Read the entire 11th chapter of Hebrews.

By faith Abel did this... By faith Enoch did that... By faith Noah did this... By faith Abraham did that... The whole chapter is devoted to the exploits of people who embraced promises of God by faith. By faith, they understood! You and I must understand too – for without faith, we can't please God, and without faith, we have no bridge to connect God's power with our needs.

In Mark 4:26-29, Jesus gives us the key to understanding the faith life. He said the whole kingdom of God can be compared

to men planting seeds in the ground. He also said in Mark 4:13 that this is the master, foundational parable. So then, if you don't understand this one, you won't be able to understand any of them, and if you understand the process of farming, you will understand how faith works, and how God works in response to your faith.

To understand farming, *understand the three seasons of farming*. There is the *planting season*. Then, there is the *growing season*. Finally, there is the *harvest season*. We plant by faith, then by faith

and patience we wait while our seeds grow, and then at the right time, we harvest the seeds planted by faith and watered by patience. This is how any farmer does what he does, and this is how you and I are going to live by faith and please God. Whatever you choose to use faith to obtain from God, or change in this life to have things line up with God's Word, you're going to have to implement these three steps. Planting your seeds of faith first, then exercising patience while those seeds grow, and finally, putting in the sickle and reaping your faith harvest!

**MARK 11:22-23** SO JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, "HAVE FAITH IN GOD. FOR ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'BE REMOVED AND BE CAST INTO THE SEA,' AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT BELIEVES THAT THOSE THINGS HE SAYS WILL BE DONE, HE WILL HAVE WHATEVER HE SAYS. [NKJV]

First, you must plant your seed. How do you do that? By speaking the Word of God over your problem or situation that needs to change. And don't just speak God's Word over your problem, be sure you speak it to the problem. Do exactly what Jesus said to do in Mark 11:22,23. He knows what He's talking about, even if you don't! This is why by faith we understand. We may not understand how this works exactly, but its enough to know it does! In the same way that a person can use a computer even though they haven't been to school to learn about how a computer does what it does, right? I'm using

my computer right now to write this article, and I don't know the first thing about the inner workings of this machine I'm using here. You and I must learn to do the same when it comes to faith. By faith we understand!

Too many times, we short-circuit God's power and draw back from using our faith because we don't fully understand the process. Well, remember, we're all learning in this life, and no one understands it all – no one! In fact, the more I use faith, preach about faith and study on the subject, the more I realize that there's so

much more to learn! So, first of all, plant your seed by speaking to your problem in Jesus' name. Find the promise or promises that would cover your need, and apply it against the problem. The application, or planting of the seeds take place when you speak God's Word out loud, fully persuaded that what God promised, He is able also to perform, just like Abraham in Romans 4:17-22. Once you've spoken the Word of God over your situation, then continue talking and acting like what you're standing in faith for has already come to pass. This then brings us to the second step.



**HEBREWS 6:11-12 AND WE DESIRE THAT EACH ONE OF YOU SHOW THE SAME DILIGENCE TO THE FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE UNTIL THE END, THAT YOU DO NOT BECOME SLUGGISH, BUT IMITATE THOSE WHO THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE INHERIT THE PROMISES. [NKJV]**

Notice that it isn't just faith that produces the desired end-result. Its faith coupled with patience. This truth is amply taught throughout the New Testament in many places, but for us today, Luke 8:15 and James 1:2-4 are two passages good enough to verify and establish the truth concerning this second step. By faith we plant the seeds, and then we wait in faith and patience. By faith we understand there is a growing process – a time between planting and harvesting. Of course, God can, and does, speed up the growing season as needed, or just because He's merciful and kind. But by and large, this is the system He's set up on earth in this dimension, and so this is the way He wants things carried out in the realm of faith. So even if we don't fully understand what's happening during the growing season, it's enough to know the seed is growing! Just because the farmer can't initially see the

planted seed growing doesn't mean it isn't. He's using his faith coupled with patience; believing the planted seed germinated, took root and has begun to grow, even though it hasn't yet broken the surface for him to see.

In the same way, when you plant your seeds of faith, by faith you understand there is going to be a time period where those seeds have to grow. Just like in farming. Remember Mark 4:26-29 – the whole kingdom of God functions the same way a farmer functions in order to bring in his crop come harvest time. Even if you don't know how God is going to work in your life, never mind that! It's enough to know He is working even when you see no visible indication that He is. This means that by faith we understand the growing process, trusting God to work on our behalf - as long as we don't dig up our seed with

doubt, worry, fear and double-mindedness (James 1:6-8)

Just like in farming – once that seed has been planted, it must be left alone or it won't germinate and grow. Yes, you have to water it, cultivate it, weed around it and maybe even fertilize it and use pesticides to protect it – but you can't touch the seed, can you? What happens if you do? The seed dies. Once the farmer has planted the seed, he doesn't go back and dig it up to see if it's growing! He has faith, which according to Hebrews 11:1, is the evidence of things not seen. So, don't dig up your seed with words of doubt, fear or worry. Let God work. Give Him time to work. Be patient, because if you are, you'll enjoy the promised harvest, which brings us to step number three.

**MARK 4:26-29 AND HE SAID, "THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AS IF A MAN SHOULD SCATTER SEED ON THE GROUND, AND SHOULD SLEEP BY NIGHT AND RISE BY DAY, AND THE SEED SHOULD SPROUT AND GROW, HE HIMSELF DOES NOT KNOW HOW. FOR THE EARTH YIELDS CROPS BY ITSELF: FIRST THE BLADE, THEN THE HEAD, AFTER THAT THE FULL GRAIN IN THE HEAD. BUT WHEN THE GRAIN RIPENS, IMMEDIATELY HE PUTS IN THE SICKLE, BECAUSE THE HARVEST HAS COME." [NKJV]**



When God moves in response to your planted seeds of faith, don't wait to enjoy the harvest! Do so immediately. Notice Jesus used that very word in His great teaching on seed time and harvest time. Immediately put in the sickle when the harvest comes. How do you do that! By enjoying the fruits of your harvest! By using the fruits of your harvest. If healing was what you planted your seeds of faith for, when healing comes, get on out there and use your healthy body to witness, tell others your testimony, and encourage those who are still sick but standing in faith for their own harvest of healing. If you needed an amount of money to pay bills or pay off debt, make sure you give your tithe from the harvest amount that came in, then go pay your bills and eliminate the debt – don't go out and waste the money purchasing other things you don't need and can't afford!

By faith you understand what you're going to do with your harvest when you get it. It won't be a mystery to you – you'll know how to enjoy the harvest in light of our responsibilities as Christian soldiers fighting to fulfill the Great Commission worldwide. If we're doing this thing right, and if our heart's motive is pure, we're going to understand that healing, health, financial prosperity, a life free from chronic sin and compromise – and whatever else we planted our faith seeds for – is to be enjoyed and used in working with Jesus as a co-worker in the harvest fields of the world. As I write this, I'm using faith for amounts of money for the purchase of land, vehicles and equipment for our ministry work in the Philippines. When someone hands me a million dollars someday for the work of this ministry, I know exactly where I'm going to use it for our ministry's vision and work overseas for God. It won't get wasted, hoarded, misused or squandered like what the Prodigal Son and the Rich Young Ruler

did with their money and assets (Mark 10 and Luke 15). When my financial harvest comes, I know exactly where the money is to be applied and used, because I've already settled those issues long ago in my heart. I want health because if I'm sick, I can't travel and fulfill my office as an Apostle for Jesus. So, the moment I get healed if I stand in faith for it, I'm back up and out the door, looking for ways to preach and share Jesus with others. I'm not wasting time sitting around "relaxing" or "taking a break". The "break" was when I was sick, but now that I'm healed, its off to the races once again for God. When my harvest comes, immediately I put in the sickle!

Its how we walk by faith and not by sight. This is how we please God by knowing and managing these three seasons that govern the faith process. Learn them, apply them and see how God continues to honor your faith more and more as time goes on.

*By faith we understand these things.*



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