Your Faith in Action

Last week, the title of the message was, “What’s Faith Got to do with it” and I heard several of you state that you enjoyed the message. But what you may not know is that we only scratched the surface of the topic. So, today I’d like to dig a little deeper into the topic of faith and the actions that stem from it. Are you all ok with that?

Let’s review a moment and look at how faith (pistis) is defined.

The word faith in the Greek is “pistis” and it means this:

1. Conviction of the truth of anything, belief;
	1. Relating to God
		1. The conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.
	2. Relating to Christ
		1. A strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God.
	3. The religious beliefs of Christians.
	4. Belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same.
2. Fidelity, faithfulness
	1. The character of one who can be relied on.

And in Hebrews 11:1, faith is defined as:

[**1**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/11-1.htm)Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Everyone has faith in someone, right? Some have faith in their spouse, in their parents, in God and many have faith in themselves. For many years, I believed I could do anything and become anyone I wanted. Unfortunately, a lot of others had faith in me as well. And you know what? I disappointed every one of them, including myself.

Have you ever had faith in someone who let you down? If you haven’t, you will. Outside of God, everyone you have faith in will disappoint you and will let you down in some way. It’s inevitable. Man cannot fulfill, but God can.

Last week we learned that the first step to true salvation is belief or faith. But before we get to that point, we all have to realize where we came from and what we all agree on prior to taking that leap of faith for Christ. Let’s take a trip back to the Roman’s Road. We are going back to the basics as to why we believe and why we have faith in the promises of One True God.

Turn with me to Romans 3:10

[**10**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-10.htm)As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

We all need to know that even now, we are not righteous nor will we ever become righteous while living on planet earth. We can and should strive for righteousness and for holiness, but the fall of man has prevented us from attaining it. We all started on a level playing field, and we are all still on that level playing field…none of us are righteous.

Let’s take a look at the next verse in “The Roman’s Road”.

Romans 3:23

[**23**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-23.htm)for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Is there anyone in this room that is not a sinner? Let’s see by a raise of hands. That’s right…we are all sinners and are in need of a Savior. God cannot look upon sin for He is Holy. That is why He sent His son to die on a cross for our sin. Jesus took on our sin to make us presentable in God’s sight so that we can attain eternal life and live with God and His Son Jesus for all eternity. Otherwise, we would have no access into Heaven without Jesus and the blood He shed for us.

Romans 5:8

[**8**](http://biblehub.com/romans/5-8.htm)But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This, folks is the ultimate and the most precious gift that anyone could ever receive.

We all know the verse that accompanies this found in John 3:16

[**16**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-16.htm)For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

What love! What compassion! What selflessness! John 3:16 is not part of the “Roman’s Road” but it needed to be said for us to all understand.

Romans 6:23

[**23**](http://biblehub.com/romans/6-23.htm)For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[b](http://biblehub.com/niv/romans/6.htm#footnotes) Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have already determined that everyone in this room is a sinner, right? Then according to this passage, what do we all deserve? Yes, death. But, there is a gift available to us; the gift of eternal life. How do we obtain this gift and what are the conditions attached to it? What will it cost us? Let’s read on to learn the answers to these questions.

Romans 10:9-10

[**9**](http://biblehub.com/romans/10-9.htm)If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/romans/10-10.htm)For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

That answers the question on how to obtain the gift and the conditions attached to it. But what is the cost? The cost is surrendering your life to God, believing that He can control your life better than you ever possibly could. Remember, He created you and He knows more about you than anyone else.

Romans 10:13

[**13**](http://biblehub.com/romans/10-13.htm)for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”[f](http://biblehub.com/niv/romans/10.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnotes%22%20%5Co%20%22Joel%202%3A32)

Let me ask you, why is memorizing the “Roman’s Road” so important? In a nutshell, it simply explains the path to Salvation.

1 Peter 3:15 says,

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

And 2 Timothy 4:2 says,

[**2**](http://biblehub.com/2_timothy/4-2.htm)Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

We memorize scripture, not just for our own well-being, but for others’ as well. We need to be prepared to explain to them that God has given them a gift and this gift is free and it is the gift of eternal salvation. It is a gift that no other entity in the Universe could offer except God. There is no other gift like it and there is no other gift that you could receive that will give you more benefits while alive on this Earth! You see, it’s not only about receiving eternal life. It’s about living a heavenly life here on Earth and reaping the benefits now so we can live our lives to the fullest! It is the most highly valued proposition that you will ever receive! And the big question I have for those that haven’t accepted this free gift is, what do you have to lose?

I’ve had many conversations in the past with unbelievers about their decision not to follow Christ and I always ask two questions; “What if you are wrong in your thinking?” And, “What do you have to lose?” If they would ask me these same questions, I wouldn’t lose anything at all and I would just have to accept an eternal death.

But, if I’m right in my thinking, all those that believe the same, they would experience an eternal life in Heaven. Those that don’t will experience an eternal Hell.

For most non-believers, there is no such thing as Heaven or Hell. You simply die and never wake up. There is no such thing as a soul or spirit, so when you die, it dies along with you. But, what if they are wrong? And if they are a parent, what have they done to their kids, and possibly, future generations?

I have spoken to many people who have said, “Everyone has their own belief system” but the question I respond back with is “On what foundation is it based upon? Is it based upon word-of-mouth from parents or someone else? What does your belief promise you that mine doesn’t?” Then again I will ask, “What if you are wrong?” The bottom line is that living for Christ is a win-win situation. You don’t lose anything except for, perhaps, a few friends that aren’t truly interested in your well-being. They believe that you have fallen for a lie, when the truth of the matter is that they have! It takes a much stronger person to believe than not to, don’t you agree? We haven’t even discussed the promises, outside of eternal life, that God has in store for us while we are living right now.

Here’s where we left off last week. We learned that Christian living is not based upon faith alone, but action must take place and the next step is the transformation-sanctification phase.

The Bible tells us that one of the highest, ultimate goals that God has in store for each one of us is our transformation in Him – and this transformation is accomplished by the renewing of your mind.

The Bible tells us that God wants to sanctify us and transform us into the express image of His Son Jesus Christ.

He wants to make us into a better and more holy people, both on the inside and the outside.

Here is the specific verse from Scripture that will tell us that this kind of transformation is actually done by the renewing of our minds in the Lord:

Romans 12:2

 [**2**](http://biblehub.com/romans/12-2.htm)Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Transformation

This is “the rest of the story” from last week’s message. Transformation is the 2nd step of your “faith in action” as discussed last week when we also studied James 2. From last week’s message, what is the 1st step? (Dialogue)

(Draw picture…Salvation, Sanctification, Glorification)

The Greek word for transformation is (*metamorphoo).*

It means to change into another form, to transform or transfigure

Christs appearance was changed and was resplendent with divine brightness on the mount of transfiguration.

Sanctification is a word that goes hand-in-hand with transformation.

The Greek word for sanctification is *(haggiazo).*

It means to separate from profane things and dedicate to God

 Consecrate things to God

 Dedicate people to God

It also means to purify

To cleanse externally

To purify from the guilt of sin

To purify internally by renewing of the soul

I believe this transformation-santification process has 3 major steps to it. They are as follows:

1. Knowledge From The Word

The first thing each Christian must know is exactly what it is that God wants to change about us. If you do not know exactly what it is God wants to do with you in this transformation-sanctification process, then you will have a very hard time in being able to fully cooperate with Him once He does try to start the renewal and transformation process on the inside of you.

There are a million and one self-help books on the market, but there is only one Book that will tell you exactly what it is God wants to do with you on the inside to change you for the better – and that Book is the Holy Bible.

There are no other books out there that will tell you the specific and exact points that God is looking to target to make this transformation occur in the way that He would really like.

The Bible tells us that this transformation-sanctification process is actually done by the Holy Spirit.

However, the Holy Spirit will not start this transformation process in you until He has something to work with – and that something is knowledge – and that knowledge can only be obtained from the Bible.

God expects you to play a direct part in this transformation process if He is going to start to work it in you.

In the three steps that will get this transformation process going for you – you will be responsible for doing the first two steps.

If you are willing to put some quality time and effort in doing these first two steps, then God will do His part, and He will then actually do all of step 3 for you in order to make this kind of transformation really possible to achieve in this lifetime.

The first step will be to study the Bible for the specific points that God will be looking to target to change you into the kind of person He really wants you to become in Him.

Since many of these verses pertaining to all of this are scattered throughout the entire Bible, we are going to learn together in this assemply, some of the most powerful verses in all of Scripture – showing you exactly what godly and saintly qualities God will want to work and impart into the very core of your personality.

King David tells us in the Old Testament that we are to meditate on the Word of God.

To meditate means to think about, to chew on, to try and figure out what God is trying to tell us in His Word – and then to try and see how these divine truths can be applied in our daily life, and how we can get some of these positive qualities worked and imparted into our personalities.

And once you have the basic knowledge of what these positive and godly qualities are going to be that God will be looking to impart into you – then you will be ready for step two.

You have to learn how to develop “right thinking” in the Lord, but you cannot develop right thinking in the Lord unless you first know exactly what it is that you should be thinking right about.

2. Put On Positive Qualities – Put Away Negative Qualities

The Bible tells us that we are the ones who are to try and “put on” the good and godly qualities that God will want us to have operating in our personalities, and to “put away” all of the bad and negative qualities that He will not want us to have operating in our personalities.

This step right here is where many Christians are missing the boat. They have been walking with the Lord for years and they wonder why there has not been many changes in the very cores of their personalities. Where is the love, joy, peace, sound mind, and self-control that the Bible promises me once I fully commit my life to the Lord?

Why is it that I still have a problem in controlling my temper, my cussing, and my critical and judgmental spirit?

Once you know the Bible tells you to have self-control over your bad temper and over your condescending and critical attitudes – then it will be your job at this point to make some kind of concerted effort to actually “put away” these kinds of negative and destructive qualities from your personality.

Example – say you have a problem with a bad temper. The least little thing will set you off. The first step, as described above, is to find the specific verses from the Bible on this topic so you can see exactly what God’s Word has to say about having bad and quick tempers.

Once you know what God’s opinion really is on the matter through His Word – then you will have the appropriate knowledge to work with in order to try and tackle this problem.

Once you see in God’s Word that He does not want His people having bad and quick tempers – then you will now be ready for step 2. Now here is where your part will really come into play.

Now that you know God wants your bad temper removed from your personality – He will now expect you to try and put away this bad and negative quality when it does want to erupt.

You will now have to start to engage with your quick and bad temper every single time you find yourself in a situation that will start to trigger its release.

You will now have to make some kind of attempt on your end to “put away” your bad temper and “put on” the quality of self-control.

Say someone has just cut you off in traffic. Your normal response may be to start cussing at this person and try to flip him off if you can get close enough to him to do it. Your bad temper has now been fully triggered like it does every time someone cuts you off in traffic.

At this point, you have to make the best effort you can to try and control the release of your bad temper. You may have to literally bite your tongue to keep all the cuss words from flying out of your mouth.

You will have to try and put on the godly quality of self-control in order to try and douse the fire – like pouring cold water on a hot fire.

You will have to tell yourself, and give yourself a pep talk that you will directly engage with your bad temper every single time you find yourself in a situation that will trigger its release.

At first, you may not have much success, because the release of your bad temper has become such an automatic bad habit. It has become an automatic response to certain situations.

But if you keep at it, over the course of time you will start to get more self-control over it, and you will then be able to dramatically reduce the number of times that you will actually go off.

The reason your bad temper triggers so easily is because you are weak in the quality of self-control.

Self-control is one of the qualities that God wants to impart and work into your personality. You will see this positive quality mentioned numerous times in the verses to follow in these other articles.

By attempting to put on this very positive quality into your personality, you will have the live ammunition you will need to not only be able to overcome a bad and nasty temper, but other bad and negative qualities as well.

The same approach goes for trying to incorporate positive qualities into your personality. The Bible tells us that God wants us to be loving, kind, generous, and gentle people.

Some people do not have many of these positive qualities operating in them due to all of the bad things that may have happened to them in this life. What God wants you to do anyway is to try and “put on” some of these positive and godly qualities.

Try to the best of your abilities to become more loving, more patient, more kind – even if you do not feel like it. If you will make some kind of decent and concerted effort to do this on your end, then God will start to do His part – which will now lead us into step 3.

Each one of us only has a certain amount of mental and emotional strength in our own personal makeups. We can only go so far with step 2.

We can only get ourselves to a certain point in being able to become more loving, more kind, and more patient. Our best is obviously not going to be good enough to get this transformation process properly completed to the degree that the Lord would really like in this lifetime.

God wants to make us more loving, patient, kind, and peaceful than we could ever get ourselves to be by using our own natural strength. So how can the Lord do this?

If we have spent good, quality time studying the Bible in reference to the changes God wants to make into our personalities – and we have tried to the best of our abilities to put on the good, godly, and saintly qualities that He would really like to have operating in our personalities – then how can God get us up to the level that He is really looking for as you will see in the Scripture verses to follow?

Since our best is obviously not going to be good enough – how can God complete this transformation process to the degree that would really please Him in this lifetime? This will now lead us into step 3.

3. By the Power of the The Holy Spirit

As you will see in some of the verses to follow, this transformation process is completed “by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit lives on the inside of each believer and it is His job to mold, shape, and transform us into the kind of holy and righteous people that God the Father would really like all of us to become in Him.

Many Christians already know this. They then wonder why there has not been much change in their personalities after they have been saved.

Where is the Holy Spirit?

How come He is not removing some of my negative qualities?

How come I am still crabby, miserable, and depressed all of the time?

The reason there has been little, if any true changes in a believer’s personality after they initially get saved, is because they have not spent enough time doing their part in steps 1 and 2.

They have not spent enough quality time in the Word of God to learn exactly what it is that God wants to change about them – and then they have not made any real concerted effort on their end to try and change themselves for the better, to try and put on the godly and saintly qualities that God the Father wants them to have operating in their personalities.

If each Christian would do their part as described in the above first two steps – then God the Father would only be too anxious to complete this transformation process for you through the power of His Holy Spirit.

What will happen in this third step is that God the Father will then start to impart His peace, His love, His joy, His kindness, His patience, and His perseverance into your personality through the Holy Spirit.

And these will be His divine qualities and attributes being imparted into you – not yours!

You only have a certain amount of love within your own natural personality to give and to express to others.

However, once God starts to release His love into your personality – then you will be able to love others in the way that the Lord would really like.

Then you can really start loving your children, your spouse, and your friends to the degree that you would really like.

Once God’s divine qualities and attributes start to enter into your personality – then many of the negative qualities that you have in you will start to wash away.

Once you have God’s love, joy, and peace starting to flow through your personality – then you will no longer feel crabby, depressed, and miserable like you did before.

God’s love, joy, and peace will now be replacing those negative emotions. You cannot feel depressed and unhappy if the love and joy of God is operating in your personality through the Holy Spirit.

This is not to say we will never get crabby, irritable, or down at times. We all live in a fallen and cursed world and we are living in bodies that are slowly dying and corrupting.

But when God really kicks this transformation process into full gear for you, the down days will not last as long as they used to.

You will not have as many of them and when you do, they will not last as long as they use to.

With God’s peace now flowing through you, you will find yourself not getting as upset as often as you did in the past. You may still lose it from time to time, but not to the same degree and frequency that you use to.

One of the greatest accomplishments anyone can achieve in this life is to find true inner peace, happiness, and contentment in this life.

True happiness can only be found on the inside of your being in your connection and personal relationship with the Lord.

All of the material wealth and goods that are out there for the taking will not give you this kind of true inner peace, happiness, and fulfillment.

All you have to do is look around you and see all of the unhappy, depressed, and miserable people that are out there – especially those who are rich and supposedly have it “all.”

Ever wonder why so many of the Hollywood movie stars are doing drugs and seeing therapists?

They are finding out that all of their material wealth, fame, and notoriety are not giving them the true inner peace, happiness, and fulfillment they thought that this kind of life would bring them.

As born-again, Spirit-filled Christians, we all know that this true inner peace and happiness can only be found on the inside of our beings through establishing a close, intimate, personal relationship with the Lord.

There is no other way! Nothing else in this life will give us this kind of true inner peace and happiness.

However, many Christians are not finding this true inner peace and happiness. The Bible talks about it, the preachers talk about it on Sunday, but many are still not finding it.

Why? Once you get saved, that is just the beginning.

After you get saved, God expects you to grow, develop, and mature in your walk with Him.

Many Christians are missing out on this sanctification-transformation process that is available to them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This sanctification process is what will really lead you into true inner peace, happiness, and fulfillment that everyone is looking for these days.

However, God is not going to give you a free lunch on this process. You will have to be willing to do your part before God will be willing to do His part.

The Bible tells us that with the measure we use, will be the measure measured back to us. In other words, if we want God’s best, then we have to give Him our best.

When it comes to this sanctification-transformation process – we have to give God our best by reading and studying the Word for the changes that He will want to make with us – and then make our own attempt to put on the good and godly qualities that He will want us to have – and then to put away all of the bad and negative qualities that He will not want us to have.

If we give the Lord our best in doing both of the above, then God will give us His best – and God’s best will be when He starts to transmit and impart His saintly and godly qualities right up into the middle of our personalities though the Holy Spirit.

Think about this incredible possibility – that God Himself can literally impart and transmit part of His divine nature into our personalities through the Holy Spirit if we are willing to work with Him during this transformation-sanctification process.

One last point before I give you all of the power verses in other articles showing you the godly and saintly qualities that God will want to try and work into us. Once you read all of the qualities that God would really like to have instilled in us, some of you may get a bit dismayed and distraught after you read what is in these Scripture verses.

You may feel overwhelmed, realizing that you may be a long way off in being able to have some of these positive godly qualities worked and imparted into your personality.

Some Christians read these verses and feel so overwhelmed – they do not even feel it is worth trying for because these ideals just seem to be too high to strive for. The one thing we all have to realize is that every single one of us is flawed to some degree. We all have our character flaws and rough edges.

No exceptions. We all have issues that need to be dealt with, and we all need God’s transformation-sanctification process to occur in our lives so the Lord can transform us into the holy righteous saints He really wants all of us to become in Him.

This sanctification process is not done overnight. This is a process that will occur over the rest of your earthly life. If you are willing to work with the Lord in this process, God will then gradually and progressively transform and sanctify you to make you into the kind of person that He really wants you to become in Him.

Your reward for allowing God to do this type of inner sanctifying work in your life will be a joy, a peace, a love, and a zest for life that you never knew was really possible to obtain in this life.

You will find true inner peace, happiness, and fulfillment. You will find what everyone else is looking for these days and cannot find, and many people will be drawn to you as a result.

Many nonbelievers have stated that what drew them to certain Christians that ended up getting them saved was the peace, joy, and love that seemed to be operating through their personalities. They said they were drawn to those personality qualities like a magnet.

Not only will you be more happy and fulfilled by allowing God to do this with you, but you will also be a joy for others, and they will be drawn to the light of God that will be shining through you.

As a result, many people, including other Christians will start asking you what it is that you have operating in you.

Why are you always so happy and upbeat? How can you have so much peace and contentment in your life in this crazy and tumultuous world we now live in?

As a result of this kind of inner spiritual transformation, you will be able to lead many more nonbelievers into eternal salvation through Jesus, and disciple many other believers into a deeper walk with the Lord.

This sanctification process is available to all believers. God wants to do this with every single one of us. The problem is that many of God’s people are not willing to do their part in it. As a result, the Body has many flaky hypocritical representatives for God who are doing more harm than good.

They are turning people away from the Lord because they are not truly manifesting God’s nature and personality though their own personalities – and this is all due because God could not properly get the sanctification process started in their lives due to ignorance and lack of knowledge on their part on how to actually enter into it, or possibly due to open rebellion and stubbornness on their part.

They may not be open to admitting to God what some of their problems and character flaws really are. They may be full of too much pride and arrogance to admit they have any character flaws that really need to be dealt with, and God thus will not be able to properly reach them to start this sanctification process within them.

As a result, they will end up presenting a haughty, prideful, arrogant, and know-it-all witness that will do nothing but turn people off and away from the Lord.

Tell God that you really want this transformation-sanctification process to start to occur in your life – and that you will be open to allowing it to occur over the rest of your life down here on this earth.

Your job will be:

To get into the Word and study the verses that will give you the knowledge on what positive qualities God will want to impart into you and what negative qualities that He will want to take out of you.

Make the best attempts you can to “put on” the good, positive, and godly qualities that God will want you to have operating in your personality – and then “put away” all of the bad, negative, and destructive qualities that He will not want you to have operating in your personality.

And then be open and sensitive to any communication that you may receive from God on any specific areas He may want to work with you on. God will let you know exactly what these specific areas are going to be and exactly how He will want to deal with each one of them.

When this starts to occur, it may be a bit painful at times. It’s hard for many of us to admit to anyone, including ourselves or to God, that we may have problems in certain areas of our personality. But let God do His inner surgery on you through the Holy Spirit and you will be much better off for it in the long run.

Remember, the Holy Spirit needs something to work with – and that something is knowledge – and these Scripture verses will be giving you this knowledge. These verses are the major door openers that will get God to start the sanctification process within you and change your life for the better.