

What is  
FAITH?

**T**HE WHOLE WORLD is now shaking with convulsions, preparatory to a tremendous event.

This present world breakdown, following the two greatest, most destructive wars in history, with world economic collapse, social unrest, religious confusion, is merely the WARNING SIGNAL that the END of the present civilization is here. The second coming of Christ to establish a new order of world peace on earth is *near*—much nearer than people think!

### Any Faith Today?

And speaking of His own second appearance on earth, Jesus Himself asked, prophetically:

"When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"

When Jesus uttered those words He was looking into the future—into *our very present generation*—which He clearly foresaw. And, foreseeing the almost total absence of FAITH in our time, He asked this question!

Certainly the world has almost lost sight of real FAITH. No wonder so few have any—no wonder so many say, "My faith isn't very strong"—or, "I just can't seem to work up the faith." People today do not know what faith is, or why they do not possess it. Yet without FAITH none can even be saved!

### Jesus Had Faith!

When Jesus walked the earth in human flesh, He possessed faith!

Yet He said plainly, "Of myself, I can do NOTHING!"

Few realize that what He did—the miracles He performed—He did not do by any supernatural power of His own. Everything He did, every miracle He performed, was done literally THRU FAITH, setting us a beautiful example! But how, then, did He perform His miracles—accomplish His mighty works?

"The FATHER that dwelleth in me," explained Jesus, "He doeth the works."  
Yes, even as you and I may be, Jesus was filled with God's Holy Spirit—God's dynamic supernatural power! This power of God Almighty, the Creator, was literally in Jesus—and *the same identical power of the same identical Living God may be within you today!*

All the apostles and evangelists of the First Century true Church of God *did* perform miracles, and even *greater* miracles than Jesus had performed, until even Peter's shadow passing over the sick and afflicted caused them to be healed! Peter, Stephen, Philip, Paul—all common, humble, ordinary men of themselves—all had

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Millions lack faith to receive answers to their prayers — to free their minds from fears and worries. To a large extent this is due to lack of understanding *what* faith is. A recent broadcast on the subject by Mr. Armstrong helped thousands to understand. Here we give you that broadcast in print.

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going down—something you can feel, and see?  
the evidence of the pain ceasing—or the swelling  
So what is that evidence, that proof? Is it  
healed.

you want some evidence that you are going to be  
Now suppose you ask God to heal you. Naturally,  
and this was one of them—should we do also.  
tinally. And, He said, the works that He did—  
with a disease. Now Jesus healed the sick con-  
Suppose, for instance you were ill—taken

feel, or hear that you have it?  
actual receiving of the answer, so you see, or  
what is that proof—that evidence? Is it the  
that you shall receive what you have asked. And  
EVIDENCE—a proof because evidence is proof—  
for things or ask God for things, there is an

So I want you to notice that when you hope

### How to KNOW You Are Healed

Then again, faith is an EVIDENCE—the evi-  
dence of that not seen. Faith precedes the actual  
receiving of what you ask for. And faith is the  
EVIDENCE you shall have it, before you even see  
it. It is the EVIDENCE of things not yet seen.  
You do not have it. You do not see it, or feel it—  
yet faith is your EVIDENCE that you have, or  
shall have it. Faith is the substance—the ASSUR-  
ANCE—of receiving that which you still HOPE for.

Now notice, Faith is the substance—the mar-  
ginal rendering says "ASSURANCE"—of things  
hoped for. You do not hope for that which you  
already have. So FAITH comes before possession.  
Once you have received the possession, you  
no longer hope for it. But even before you receive  
it, you have it in SUBSTANCE, and that substance  
—that ASSURANCE that you shall possess it—is  
FAITH (Heb. 11:1).

### What Faith IS

And second, How may we have it, and how  
may it be increased?

First, What is Faith?  
So now let's ask two questions:  
not filled with the HOLY SPIRIT!  
ing PRAYER—and consequently, because we are  
of surrendered, submissive, earnest and heart-rend-  
His Word, and lack of enough of the right kind  
then lack of enough time spent in the study of  
from God—we are so out of touch with Him  
this life—our minds and our hearts are so far  
our minds so filled with the material interests of  
we are so close to a modern materialistic world—  
because God denies us that power, but because  
And we seem to LACK that power today, NOT  
that power, the SAME identical power Jesus had,  
because they lived and walked close to God and  
were filled with the Holy Spirit!

perhaps it has grown worse! God gave you a  
are not healed. The pain is still there! In fact,  
see and feel. You can see for yourself that you  
tangible evidence that is real—evidence you can  
"My evidence," says your nature, "is literal,  
and jury, his evidence."

The prosecuting attorney, your human nature,  
attempting to convict God of obtaining your  
allegiance under false pretenses—of breaking His  
contract—of lying—presents before you, as judge

and anointed you with oil.  
who have prayed over you the prayer of faith  
instructions and called the elders of the church,  
written promise. You have followed God's in-  
You have prayed for healing, according to God's  
James 5:14, for your physical healing when sick.  
read God's command and written PROMISE, in  
You, now sitting as judge and jury, have

payment of PROMISSORY NOTES.  
false pretenses! God is accused of willful non-  
taining things more valuable than money under  
is accused of lying—of unfaithfulness—of ob-  
Attorney for the Defense is the Holy Spirit. God  
The prosecuting attorney is your human nature.  
And you, yourself, are sitting as JUDGE and JURY.  
being tried is none other than GOD ALMIGHTY!  
very strange—a most unusual trial: for the One

### An Unusual Trial

Let's picture a trial in a courtroom. It's a  
very strange—a most unusual trial: for the One  
being tried is none other than GOD ALMIGHTY!  
And you, yourself, are sitting as JUDGE and JURY.  
The prosecuting attorney is your human nature.  
Attorney for the Defense is the Holy Spirit. God  
is accused of lying—of unfaithfulness—of ob-  
taining things more valuable than money under  
false pretenses! God is accused of willful non-

Prayer is a spiritual matter. God is a SPIRIT!  
And when we ask, for instance, for healing, we  
do have an evidence—proof positive—that the  
healing will be done—but that evidence is not  
something seen, or felt, or heard—it is not a  
physical evidence—it is rather the spiritual evi-

ence of FAITH. FAITH is our evidence.  
But that is not FAITH! Faith is a spiritual mat-  
ter, and it has nothing to do with the five senses,  
tasting, feeling.  
knowledge, by natural processes, to the human  
mind. The senses of seeing, hearing, smelling,  
are five sole channels capable of transmitting  
ceive KNOWLEDGE only thru the five senses. These  
Listen! The human mind, naturally, can re-  
ASSURANCE—you shall possess it.

the thing—SEEMING it—is not Faith. Faith pre-  
cedes possession because FAITH is confidence—  
what we FEEL—is not the true EVIDENCE. Having  
without ever seeing it! Because what we SEE—  
an EVIDENCE that he could SEE—and he died  
wanted to have FAITH in it! He was looking for  
This man said he wanted to BELIEVE in it—he  
healed by direct prayer, then I'll believe in it."  
I know a man who said, "When I can see anyone

into your character. God has revealed to you in this and other Scriptures that He will sometimes delay healing you in order to TRY your faith and to teach you to be patient! Your healing, God has promised, shall be according to your faith. Faith is trusting God to do that which HE has not yet done. After the healing is completed, you no longer need to exercise faith. Faith is the ingredient you must exercise until God heals you—until you can see and feel that you are healed. After God has healed you, then you won't need FAITH in it any longer, but your faith must remain firm and steadfast, and patient, regardless of what you see or feel, until God actually heals you, as He has promised to do. Now the prosecuting attorney in this case, your human nature, wants you to believe that faith is something you exercise about 30 seconds, while you are still praying, and then if God has not done what He promised as soon as you expect, you are to find God guilty of lying. The instant you yield to the devil's influence over your human nature and render a verdict that God will not do what He promised just because He has not done it yet—that moment you make God out a liar, you lose all FAITH in God, and you thereupon break your part of the agreement, which is to have faith and keep on having faith, and trusting God, and relying upon Him, until He performs what He promised. Faith is simple reliance upon GOD'S WORD. It is the evidence of what you do not see or feel. Therefore I call upon you to have patience—to keep on TRUSTING GOD, until He heals you, and then HE will heal you! I call upon you to find God innocent of this charge of lying—I call upon you to find Him FAITHFUL to His promises, and then you shall have them.

The evidence is now all in. You will now render the VERDICT!

You must render your verdict based upon the evidence.

Which, now, is the evidence you believe? That which you see, and feel—the physical evidences that often are deceptive—or your faith that God's Word is true, that His promises are true, that it is impossible for God to lie?

If you BELIEVE this latter spiritual evidence, and reject the physical evidences of sight and of feeling, you pronounce sentence that His Word has been vindicated by your verdict—you shall be RELEASED from the disease, and what He promised shall be carried out.

But, if you decide that the physical evidences above the Word of ALMIGHTY GOD—and you reject His Word and His promise, and refuse to

written promise, as certainly as anyone, ever gave a promissory note. You conformed to all His conditions. You prayed. You called the elders of the church, and they prayed. You believed! But you can now see my evidence—you can feel my evidence—you are still suffering—you are not healed! Therefore God did not heal you! God did not keep His Word. God's Word, the Bible, lied to you. God FAILED! My evidence is that which you plainly see and feel! You were not healed. Therefore I demand you bring in a verdict of GUILTY!—guilty in the first degree—I demand you find Almighty God GUILTY of lying, of obtaining your allegiance under false pretenses, of not performing what He promised in His written promise."

But now the attorney for the defense—God's Holy Spirit—speaks to you, quietly, calmly.

He says to you: "I now present MY evidence that God's Word is TRUE—that God is faithful—that God cannot lie. My evidence is not anything you can see or feel. My evidence is simple FAITH—patient trust in the veracity of God's Word. It is impossible for God to lie. My evidence is YOUR FAITH in that fact, and in His promise. And FAITH is the evidence of that which is not seen, not felt!

"Let's review the case to see clearly what happened. Let's understand plainly where your human nature has clouded the issue and deceived you. God has told you, in Exodus 15, that HE is your healer—your GOD-bealer—that is one of His names, and God is named what HE is. God sent His Son into the world to be beaten with stripes, to suffer the penalty of your transgressions of nature's laws, in your stead—His body was broken for you, and by His stripes, you were healed! God gave you, His Word that it is His Will to heal you. He commanded you to call the elders of the church, which you did. He promised, unconditionally, to heal you. But God has also made it a part of this contract, in His Word, that, "according to your faith, be it unto you"—in the very words of Christ!

"Now FAITH is your evidence that God will do what He promised. You can't see faith—you can't feel it. What you see or feel has nothing to do with faith. But the point your human nature wants you to overlook is that God did not promise WHEN, or HOW, He would heal you!

"God's purpose in your life is to transform you from what you've been into the very image of His son—into the very character of God Himself. Part of this character is the learning of PATIENCE! And God instructs you, in James 1:3, that the trying of your faith works PATIENCE

as healing is concerned, I can tell you definitely that His Word says plainly and emphatically that it is His will. The Bible is full of promises—literally FULL of them. If you need anything, study to see whether God promised it, and if He has, HE CAN'T BRACK A PROMISE!

### The Importance of CLAIMING a PROMISE

I remember one time several years ago my two sons came to me and asked me to do something for them—I don't remember now what they were then around seven and nine years old. "But, Daddy, YOU PROMISED," they said, "and you've GOT TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE!"

And then I remembered I had promised. Well, what do you think? Do you think I could break a promise when my two sons came to me and put it like that? No, and if you'll just as boldly tell God HE has promised, and then CLAIM that promise as applied to your case, and TRUST God to keep it, and quit worrying about it—quit trying to work up faith—just RELAX, and let God take over from there—leave it with Him—let Him do it—Hell do it, every time!

I know whereof I speak, because I've put what I'm now telling you to the test not once, but literally hundreds and thousands of times, and God has never failed to keep His promise once. I've seen the answers come so often and so frequently that I expect the answer when I ask! God promises to supply every need. That if we'll seek first the Kingdom of God and His RIGHTEOUSNESS—which is right doing—He will provide every material need.

### This WORK a Living Example of FAITH

Why, this very work we conduct is a direct answer to prayer! This work—"The WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast, "The PLAIN TRUTH" magazine and AMBASSADOR COLLEGE—which now has grown to national and international scope and influence, started as small as any work could start—literally from NOTHING. It has been from the start 100% a work of FAITH—and we had to really learn this lesson of faith before it had even started.

### WHY People Lack Faith

And now, very briefly, WHY don't we have FAITH, and how may we get it, and how may it be increased? So many say, "Well, I have no impression—I have no feeling, no conviction—that I shall get the answer."

believe in it—refuse, in other words, to accept and trust in the evidence of FAITH until God completes it, then you yourself must render your verdict, "NOT HEALED," and you will not be healed!

### George Mueller's Definition

You see, God does not promise healing, or anything else, unless we BELIEVE. "According to your FAITH be it unto you," said Jesus. And remember the FAITH must precede and therefore is a condition, to the possession.

Now let me give you George Mueller's definition. George Mueller is dead now, but he probably was the greatest modern apostle of FAITH. He founded five great orphanages and other charitable institutions in Bristol, England. He started out, as FAITH always does, with a very small work, without any financial backing, and absolutely no means of support, except to get down on his knees and send up a believing prayer to God.

For nearly seventy years George Mueller continued that great work, and it grew into a tremendous institution until it housed THOUSANDS. Every dime for feeding, clothing, sheltering, and schooling those thousands of orphans came in only one way—as a result of believing prayer. Altogether he received more than a million four hundred thousand POUNDS—that was about SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS—that was sent to him in answer to his prayers!

And so when George Mueller gives us his definition of FAITH, we may well listen, for he spoke from a rich experience, and his definition is a practical one, because it worked to the extent of \$7,000,000!—all used in a manifestation of LOVE and MERCY. And here in his definition of faith—and incidentally, ever since I read it, some twenty-four years ago, it has been mine, and this work of GOD has been built by putting it into actual practice! Listen!

### Learning God's WILL

Remember, whatever your need, the first thing to do, to be sure of receiving an answer to your prayer, is to search the scriptures, to learn whether it is GOD'S WILL (Eph. 5:17). The Bible reveals God's will. We need never say, "Well, I know God could heal me if IT IS HIS WILL." You can know His will. And so far

They want to wait until they get a certain CONVICTION, a certain FEELING, a sort of assurance they can FEEL—before they really believe they shall have the answer.

But my friends, THAT is not faith!

That is FEELING!

Your feeling, your convictions, your impressions, have absolutely not one thing or the other to do with FAITH. FAITH HAS ONLY TO DO WITH GOD'S WORD! The one question is, has God promised it in the Bible? If He has, then probabilities, possibilities, feelings, convictions, impressions, have nothing whatsoever to do with it. God has a thousand ways we know nothing of, of answering and providing whatever He has promised. We don't need to see HOW He is going to do it. And that's another thing—He almost never will do it the WAY we expect. So don't try to figure out how it is possible for God to do it. You are trusting in SUPERNATURAL POWER! Then BELIEVE in that power. God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. What He has promised, He will perform, but He will do it His way, and in His TIME. Leave all that to HIM and just TRUST HIM. Rely upon His word.

### GOD'S GIFT

And let us remember, FAITH is the GIFT OF GOD.

So many think that everything else that comes from God is His gift, but the FAITH required to receive these things is something we ourselves must somehow work up, or strain and strive for. But we have to just relax and TRUST GOD, even for the FAITH by which we receive everything else! (Eph. 2:8.)

In Revelation 14:12 is a description of the true Church of THIS DAY. Those in this church have the FAITH OF JESUS. Notice, the FAITH OF JESUS! It is not just our faith in HIM, but His faith—the very faith with which He performed His miracles—placed in us and acting in us.

How can you get it? Draw closer to God. Get to know God. Surrender all the way to HIM, and do His will. And then PRAY. You get to know Him in PRAYER. We are too close to the material things. Thru PRAYER, much more prayer, you can come closer to GOD and the spiritual things. And what a happy, joyous experience it is, once you have really done it!

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