

GSM

We Live By Faith

Foundations of faith

I. Faith founded upon the rhema Word of God

A. [Romans 10:17]

1. Faith comes by the "Word"
 - a. Logos- The entire written Word of God
 - b. Rhema- The spoken, revealed, or communicated Logos
2. Faith comes by the rhema
3. Best and earliest manuscripts say "**Word of Christ**" [not God]- Faith comes from the message and the revelation of Christ. The Law does not minister faith although it is Logos. The Law is not of faith. [Gal. 3:12]
4. Christ is the author and finisher of faith- [Hebrews 12:2]- If you are listening to something that is not related to Christ and His finished work then it is not producing faith in you. The Law focuses on us and this will not produce faith. The focus and revealing of Christ and His finished work ministers faith.

B. One of the main mistakes people make about faith is that they think faith comes from their intellectual knowledge of the logos Word. Just reading and knowing a verse does not mean you have faith in the Word. Faith comes from the revealed Word to your heart. This revealed Word is rhema. This revealing work belongs to the Holy Spirit. Many non-Christians can quote scripture but they do not have faith.

C. [Matt. 14:28-29]- Peter walked upon the word "come" and not the water. Jesus and Peter did not break dance on the waves. They walked on calm water as they walked in faith step by step. Each step of faith stilled the water under their feet.

D. Some girls drowned when they tried to walk on water because they had heard the story about Peter. They tried to walk on water from the Logos instead of the rhema- God told **me** to walk on water!

E. [Matthew 4:4]- We live by faith and we live by the proceeding rhema of God.

1. So many times Christians will face a need and they will just start quoting all the verses they "know" concerning that area. They

confess it and pray it but so often to results take place. This is because they are standing on the Logos and not rhema.

2. Ex. Kenneth Hagin when he found out his daughter was sick did not pray for her for a couple of days. He prayed for wisdom and meditated on the scriptures until faith came. Then he spoke the word and she was healed. He spoke from heart faith instead of from his intellect.

3. We need a proceeding word from God.

4. The Spirit leads Jesus to the wilderness- I believe it is the same wilderness that Israel was led to and Paul was led to- Sinai. **vs. 3-** Satan wanted Jesus to turn stones into bread. He wanted Jesus to the Law into what gives life. Jesus said that life is found in the rhema of God to man. God does not want us to live by outward written laws but inward communication from Him.

5. [**Matthew 7:9**]- Jesus said if a child asked for bread would the Father give Him a stone? God will not give you law today. He gives you His rhema!

F. [**Hebrews 4:12**]- The Logos is living. Rhema is a portion of the living Word revealed to your heart.

1. vs. 10-11 speak of entering into rest. We enter into the rest of His finished work. This rest is faith.

2. The Word is energetic and working. The Word through our faith does the work for us.

G. [**Luke 1:37**]- ***because no word {Gr. rhema} from God shall be without power.*** Within each rhema of God is the resident power to fulfill itself.

H. [**Luke 8:11-17**]- Each rhema is a seed that has life in it. The life is the revelation within that spoken word to you.

I. If you speak and act upon that revelation then the power will be released into the natural. If you don't then the revelation will be robbed from you. If you speak and act on the rhema more will be given to you. If you do not then what you think you have will be taken from you. The life [revelation] is taken and you are left with the outward shell of the seed which is the intellectual knowledge of the doctrine in you mind. You know the doctrine but the rhema that produces faith is gone.

II. Avenues for rhema

A. Meditation- [**Ps. 77:6**]- As you meditate your spirit will pick up rhema from God- usually spontaneous thoughts or insights called revelation.

B. Praying in the Spirit

1. [1 Cor. 14:15]- I will pray with my spirit and I will pray with my understanding. Praying in the Spirit brings rhema so that you can pray it out in your understanding.

2. [1 Cor. 14:2]- Pray mysteries- These will be revealed to you by rhema in your understanding.

C. Being still before God- [Is. 30:15]- (ESV) ***For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."*** But you were unwilling, - In quietness before the Lord you received the still small voice which produces faith [trust]- this is the strength of the Christian life.

D. We have lost the skill of being quiet in this age. You must be still to know God. [Ps. 46:10]