

## *Faith is Our Victory*

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Through the grace of God we have been promised the incredible possibility of a real, live relationship with the divine. Our appropriate response to this relationship is one of faith – a faith that gets us through the upheavals and earthquakes of life.

The word "faith" is one of the most widely used words in the NT. It is found in the First Testament through the verbal root aman, or as we would translate the word, "Amen." This word "faith" or "amen" originally expressed for the Hebrew people the idea of carrying, bearing, or supporting, such as a doorpost bearing pillars. Yahweh is called the "God of Amen." God is the solid base, the rock, the support, the "Amen," upon which life must be raised.

Belief is an act of the intellect. Faith, on the other hand, is an experience of the whole person. We may believe that God has the whole world in his hands, but faith is the act of trust by which we put ourselves into God's hands.

Faith is more than knowing that God is something, it's knowing that God does something. Faith is our victory. Victory comes in believing God enough to step out in faith. The rest is commentary.

Victory for Joshua took place not when the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. The real victory occurred when Joshua believed, as incredible as it seemed, that God would do something great that day. The moment Joshua took that first step around Jericho, and blew that first horn, the battle had already been won. The rest was commentary. The victory for David was not when he slew the giant Goliath. The real victory for David was the miracle of faith. The moment David took that first step down into that valley, and expressed his faith in God's promise with his feet, the victory was won. The rest was commentary. The miracle of Peter's walking on water was not how far he got without sinking. The real miracle occurred when Peter lifted his leg over the side of the boat and stepped out into the deep unknown. That step was the miracle of faith. The rest was commentary.

The Bible says we are to live by faith. In biblical terms, it is more accurate to think of faith as an active term (being faithful) than in a passive tense (having faith). We come with faith as Christians, believing enough to ask who would cast the first stone; to reassure the woman at the well that her life could change; to sit with sinners and eat with the rich; to believe that right will triumph and that temples and systems can change, and to claim that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." (Psalm 46)