

GOD'S ECONOMY IN FIATH, Week 6**The Linking Faith—the Faith of the Overcomers**

Scripture Reading: Heb. 13:7; Rom. 1:17; 4:17; 10:17; Gal. 5:6; 6:10; Rom. 12:3; Hymns, #535

- Hebrews 13:7 Remember the ones leading you, who have spoken to you the word of God; and considering the issue of their manner of life, imitate their faith.
- Romans 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, “But the righteous shall have life and live by faith.”
- Romans 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything nor uncircumcision, but faith avails, operating through love.
- Galatians 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.
- Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Day 1

Romans 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

I. In order to be men full of faith (Heb. 13:7; Acts 6:5), we need to see that “faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ**” (Rom. 10:17):**

- A. The source of faith is the **word**, but we have to realize the crystallization of this point; there are three aspects of the word:
 1. First, there is the **written word of God**—the Bible—John 10:35.
 2. Then there is the **living word of God**—Christ—1:1.
 3. Finally, there is the **applied word of God**—the Spirit—Eph. 6:17; John 6:63.
- B. The written word, the living word, and the applied word **refer to God Himself**; God's written word in the Bible becomes Christ as the living word, who is applied to us as the Spirit, the word of the Spirit; the more that God is gained by us in this way, the more He becomes our faith.
- C. The crystallization of the source of faith is **God in His written word contacted as the living word and applied as the word of the Spirit so that we can gain the Triune God**, who is able to call the things not being as being and give life to the dead—Rom. 4:17.

According to Romans 10:17, **faith comes out of the hearing of the word**. Thus, the source of faith is the word, but we have to realize the crystallization of this point. There are three aspects of the word. First, there is the written word of God—the Bible. Then there is the living word of God—Christ. Finally, there is the applied word of God—the Spirit.

The Bible is the written word, and Christ is the living word. Without the Spirit, however, the living word cannot be applied to us. **The living word becomes the applied word through the Spirit**. God has only one kind of word. First, He spoke, and what He spoke was written in a book. That is the Bible. There is only one book that is the word of God. The term Bible means “the book.” The Bible is the book of books. What a mercy and what a wonder that in human history such a book has been produced—the **word of God**! The world today is a mess. So many bad things are reported in today’s newspapers. Suppose the Bible were taken away from mankind. I do not think that mankind could exist without the word of God.

We have such a word, but not many have really been benefited by this word. This is why we have to either **read or hear the Bible**. Every week we gather together a number of times just to read, speak, and hear the word. **When the word of the Bible is spoken to us and heard by us, right away the written word becomes the living word**. That is Christ. When the living word is applied to us and received by us, it becomes the word of the Spirit. Then this word of the Spirit heard by us is the source of our faith. Faith comes from the hearing of this applied word by the Spirit through the living Christ out of the written Bible. (*Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 8*)

Day 2

Matthew 17:20 And He said to them, Because of your little faith; for truly I say to you, If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Galatians 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.

II. We need to see the effect of faith—**nothing is impossible to faith**:

- A. “If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you”—Matt. 17:20b.
- B. Hymns, #535, written by Charles Wesley, expresses the effect of faith; stanza 5 says, “Let me no longer live, but Thee,” indicating that **faith always annuls us and reveals Christ to us**.
- C. Only God is all able, omnipotent; nothing is impossible to Him (19:26); but the Lord also said that nothing is impossible to faith, indicating that **God and faith are one; faith is the subjective God applied to our being**; thus, just as nothing is impossible to God, nothing is impossible to faith.

III. The believers, the believing ones in Christ, are the **household of faith**—Gal. 6:10:

- A. This household is a big family, and the family name is “faith”; this is the home of faith; we may say that a certain home is the Smith home or the Lee home, but now **we are all members of the “faith home.”**
- B. We are members of the great family, the household, of faith; this **faith house is a house that believes in God through His word**—Heb. 1:2; Matt. 17:5.

IV. The **believers’ faith in Christ brings them into the life union with Christ** (John 3:15, 36); the word of God is embodied in Christ and realized in the Spirit to be our faith; the believers live Christ and walk by this faith:

Day 3

- John 1:12-13** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

- A. To believe into Christ is to **receive Him** and **be united with Him as one**—1:12-13; 3:16.
- B. This faith brings us into the life union with Christ, who is the embodiment of God realized as the all-inclusive Spirit to be our faith; **faith links us with the Triune God**.
- C. As the organism of the Triune God, Christ is the true vine, and we are His branches who have been organically united with Him by believing into Him; **we need to remain in this organic union by abiding in Him**—15:1, 5.
- D. Faith is the linking of our salvation; it links God with us and links us to God; **this linking makes us God-men**.
- E. **We live Christ by a linking organ, and this linking organ is faith**; thus, Paul says in Galatians 2:20 that the life that he lived, he lived by faith, the faith of Jesus the Son of God, “who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”
- F. When we **call upon the Lord** by saying, “O Lord Jesus, I love You,” He becomes the faith imparted into us so that we spontaneously live Him by this faith; living faith operates through our love for the Lord (5:6); He Himself as the faith becomes our faith, and this is the linking organ to link us to the unlimited, infinite Christ.
- G. By just **speaking a simple word** to the Lord in conversation with Him out of our love for Him and by a **little calling on the Lord**, we are infused with Him; the infusing of Christ into us causes us to have Him as our faith, which is the linking organ that links us with Him; this is the way to live Christ—Phil. 4:6, 12.
- H. **We believers walk by faith**, by our unseen God, not by sight; this faith links us all the time to our wonderful God—2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:27; 1 Pet. 1:8.
- I. **To walk by faith means that our walking is linked with God**; in Luke 18 the Lord indicated that we also suffer persecution by faith; in Luke 18:8 the Lord said, “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”—this means we have to suffer all the persecutions by faith.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4 that he spoke by the spirit of faith. He says, “We...believe, therefore we also speak” (v. 13). If you do not believe that Christ is making His home in your heart, how can you go to tell others? **You have to believe that Christ lives in you** and that if you die with Him through the cross, He as the resurrection life will work Himself into you. **This is all by faith**. If you do not believe in these things, how can you speak to others? The reason that you do not prophesy, that you do not speak for the Lord, speak the Lord forth, and speak the Lord into others, is mainly because your exercise of faith is short.

The way to receive such a faith is to **contact its source**, the Lord, the processed and consummated God, by **calling on Him, praying to Him, and pray-reading His Word**. We have to come forward to God’s throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace. This means that we have to **contact God to receive faith**. This is the only way. It is not necessary to have a separate time to contact God. At any time, anywhere, you can contact Him. Just call on Him and say a little word to Him. Then you will receive faith. This faith links you with God and imparts, transfuses, God into you. In this way you will have the living faith. Actually, that is God Himself moving within you. Then you will become a man of faith. (*Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 9*)

Day 4

- Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- Romans 1:17** For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, “But the righteous shall have life and live by faith.”

V. The way to receive such a linking faith is to contact its source, the processed and consummated God, by [calling on Him](#), [praying to Him](#), [pray-reading His word](#), and [musing on His word](#); this faith links us with God and imparts, transfuses, God into us; then we will become men of faith—Heb. 4:16; Rom. 10:12-13; 2 Tim. 2:22; Eph. 6:17-18; Psa. 119:15 and footnote 1:

- A. This faith links us with God and [imparts, transfuses, God into us to become our living faith](#); this is the faith of the believers in its progressing stage.
- B. The initial stage of faith is the faith that comes from the [hearing of the word](#); the Spirit was installed into us through the hearing of the word; now this Spirit, or this faith, which has been installed into us, [stays within us and grows](#)—Rom. 10:17; 12:3.
- C. Romans 1:17 says that “the [righteous shall have life and live by faith](#)”—this verse reveals that the structure of the gospel of God is the righteousness of God, the life of Christ, and the faith of the believers; this verse can also be considered as the banner of God’s eternal economy.
- D. To have life by faith is the initiation; [to live by faith is the going on, the progressing stage of faith](#); faith in the second stage, the progressing stage, is the linking faith that comes to us through our contacting the Triune God.
- E. If you contact God, faith grows in you, which means that God increases in you; we all have the same faith in quality, but the quantity of faith we have depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us; when [God increases in us, the linking faith in the second stage grows in us](#)—cf. Col. 2:19.

There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness from God to the believers. The first aspect is that [He is the believers’ righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ](#). The first stanza of Hymns, #295 says, “God’s Christ, who is my righteousness, / My beauty is, my glorious dress.” Christ is our beauty given by God to us to be put on us as our clothing, our glorious dress. This is outward, objective.

The second aspect is that [Christ is the believers’ righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively](#). We were sinners who repented to God and believed into the Lord Jesus. Right away God gave Christ to us as a glorious dress to cover us, so we are acceptable to God righteously, outwardly. This is objective righteousness. Also, when Christ was given to us to be put on us, He entered into us to be our life and life supply to live Himself out of us. This living out is the manifestation of God in Christ. This is pleasant in the eyes of God. Surely, God would justify us subjectively, not just objectively. Now we can see the two aspects—outward and inward. [Christ is put on us, and Christ enters into us to live God out of us to be our subjective righteousness](#). (*Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 5*)

Day 5

Romans 12:3	For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.
Romans 1:8	First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all because your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world.

VI. Romans 12:3 says, “Not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to [think so as to be sober-minded](#), as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith”:

- A. To think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think without a sober mind annuls the proper order of the Body life; [God gave us the same faith in quality but not in quantity](#); the matter of quantity depends upon how we grow; if we grow today as the apostle Paul grew, the portion of faith we receive will be greatly enlarged.
- B. God first allotted faith to us in quality, and then He apportioned it in quantity; what kind of faith we have depends upon God’s allotment; [how much faith we have depends upon God’s apportioning](#).
- C. [God’s apportioning depends upon our attitude](#); if we are not sober-minded, God would not increase His apportioning of faith to us, and He probably would even decrease it— cf. Luke 1:53; Matt. 5:3.

VII. Faith is the indicator of the believers' life in the enjoyment of the Divine Trinity— 1 Thes. 1:3, 5, 7-8; Rom. 1:8:

- A. Paul remembered the Thessalonians' "work of faith"; their faith became such an indicator of their life in the enjoyment of Christ that they became a **pattern to all the believing ones**—1 Thes. 1:3, 7-8.
- B. Faith is not for us to accomplish great things; faith is for us to **live God**, to **express God**, and to **minister God** to people; faith is not for us to perform something great; faith is to live God and annul ourselves—1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim. 1:5.
- C. In all that we are and do, people must see that we are **enjoyers of God**; we should always bear an indication that we are nothing, but **God in Christ is everything to us**; we need to be those who, like Watchman Nee, pay more attention to life than work (see Watchman Nee—a Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age, ch. 11).

Day 6

Luke 18:8	I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?
Matthew 25:21	His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

VIII. The linking faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return—this is based on Luke 18:8, where the Lord said, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?":

- A. May the Lord be merciful to us that when He comes back, **He can find us as the believing ones**, who always trust in Him, not in ourselves, and who always have no assurance in ourselves—2 Cor. 1:8-9; John 15:5; Phil. 3:3; cf. S. S. 8:5.
- B. J. N. Darby once said, "**O the joy of having nothing and being nothing, seeing nothing but a living Christ in glory**, and being careful for nothing but His interests down here"—this is faith.
- C. We are not for big miracles, big works, or big careers; the Lord is expecting to find, at His coming back, the **ones who live by the linking faith**; Christ expects to find us as His hidden overcomers—Rom. 11:3-4; Psa. 83:3b.
- D. The believers who live an overcoming and exulting life by the linking faith will be found by Christ at His return **as the treasures ready to receive the salvation of their souls as the end (result) of their faith**—1 Pet. 1:8-9.
- E. Today we are making ourselves ready to be His bride (Matt. 25:10; Rev. 19:7-9); to make ourselves ready is to become an **overcomer, who is always linked by the living faith with the Triune God**.

IX. The overcomers who live by faith will be rewarded by Christ with the co-kingship and the top enjoyment of the divine life with Him in the millennium (20:4, 6); the Lord will then say to His overcomers, "Well done, good and faithful slave...Enter into the joy of your master" (Matt. 25:21, 23).

- X. By this linking faith **we are linked to God in Christ to participate in all that the all-inclusive Christ is, has, and has attained to**, for the producing of the organic members of Christ to constitute and build up His organic Body, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the enlargement and expression of the eternal Triune God in His unlimited glory in the mysterious mingling of divinity with humanity for eternity (Rev. 21:2—22:5); this is the eternal fulfillment of Romans 1:17—"the righteous shall have life and live by faith"!

To say that God has allotted Christ to us is somewhat shallow. Even the new beginners can know this. But to say that God has allotted faith to us is deeper. To say that God has allotted Christ to us is a kind of objective teaching, without experience. But God's allotting faith to us is not just an objective teaching but a [subjective experience](#). [This God-allotted faith links us with Christ. So when you have faith, you have Christ.](#) This is why such a faith is the faith of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Jesus the Son of God becomes the Author and Perfecter of this faith (Heb. 12:2).

To say that faith is Christ Himself may be an objective doctrine. No experience is needed. But to say that faith is allotted by God to us implies that [this faith right now links you to the allotted Christ](#). So these two things are one. In 2 Peter 1:1 we are told that God has allotted to us such a faith. Then verse 3 says that the divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness. Faith as God's lot to us is all the things that relate to life and godliness.

We realize that we need to grow in life, but how can we grow in life? [We grow by faith linking us to Christ](#). We can have the linking faith [not just by hearing the word but by contacting the very Triune God who is faith to us](#). This faith is not the faith in the initial stage but the faith in the second, linking stage. Today's revival and the new revival is just to stir people up to contact the Triune God so that this faith in the second stage may work in the linking way. When you contact the living God, right away you are revived. This is the effectiveness of the linking faith. (*Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 10*)