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Title: Build Your Faith

Scripture Text: Jude 20

INTRODUCTION

(Jude 20)

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”

- We are addressed as “Beloved” – loved by God and His family.
- We can build our faith - this is not God’s responsibility but ours.
- We are all given a measure of faith because we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:20)

(Romans 12:3)

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

- Mechanical faith in living our everyday life - Faith in material things e.g. houses, cars, airplanes, inventions etc.
- Biblical faith or “most holy faith” in living the Christ-life and doing the will of God.

WHAT IS FAITH?

(Hebrews 12:1)

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- It has substance – God’s Word.
- It gives hope – creates in the mind its possibilities.
- Its evidence comes after you have believed.
- God gives life and calls things to existence.

(Romans 4:17)

(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”

Abraham called “father of faith”(Romans 4:11)

“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also.”

- Symptom of weak faith – when you trust anything more than God.
- Faith does not make you a survivor but a success.
- Some things that happen without your involvement. It takes God by faith through prayer.

“Build your most Holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit”

- **Some things that are impossible with men but not with God.**

Hebrews 11 - The Faith Chapter

- 1) 4 “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain ...”
- 2) 5 “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death ...”
- 3) 7 “By faith Noah, prepared an ark for the saving of his household ...”
- 4) 8 “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called ...”
- 5) 9 “By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country ...”
- 6) 11 “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed ...”
- 7) 17 “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac ...”
- 8) 20 “By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to Come ...”
- 9) 21 “By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph ...”
- 10) 23 “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents ...”
- 11) 24 “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter ...”
- 12) 27 “By faith he forsook Egypt ...”
- 13) 28 “By faith he kept the Passover ...”
- 14) 29 “By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, ...”
- 15) 30 “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down ...”
- 16) 31 “By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe ...”

- **By Faith They Overcame.**

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

We are not free from conflicts, sickness, troubles and disasters.

- Build your faith through prayer – pray in the Holy Spirit.
 - Pray with knowledge in your own language.
 - Pray with another tongue – praying in the Spirit.
 - Prayer is communicating with God.

- Prayer gives God the moral right to intervene in the affairs of men.

Faith is not built just by church attendance.
Faith is developed through obstacles and challenges.
Praying is an act of faith in God.

- To build is not by accident, but by intention.
 - Faith is developed through challenges and obstacles.

(Psalm 34:19)

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

- No victory without conflict.
- No healing without sickness.
- No deliverance without bondage.

SAMSON’S LAST DAYS

Judges 16:20-31

20 And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: “Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!”

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said: “Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, The destroyer of our land, And the one who multiplied our dead.”

25 So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, “Call for Samson, that he may perform for us.” So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars.

26 Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them.”

27 Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there—about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.

28 Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, “O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!”

29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left.

30 Then Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

31 And his brothers and all his father’s household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.

- Don't let your mistakes stop you from believing.
- Don't give up believing in the face of challenges and problems.
- Samson was in trouble.
 - Tormented by memories.
 - Treated like an animal.
 - His hair began to grow – symbolically, he started to look to God and to trust God's purpose for him.

(Judges 16:22)

“However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.”

- Faith never informs you.
 - Never say “never” to anyone who lives by faith.
- Faith grows in the midst of challenges.
 - Think faith - Samson requested that he be led to the pillars of the arena (V. 26).
 - Act in faith - Samson stretched his hands between the two pillars (V. 29).
 - Pray in the Holy Spirit - Samson prayed (V. 28).
- Your enemies will be defeated if you have faith.

CONCLUSION

(James 2:22)

“Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?”

- Faith is perfected by works.
- Build your faith by praying in the Holy Spirit.