

***The Characteristic of Faith***

A message delivered to  
**MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
March 7, 1999

**TITLE: The Characteristic of Faith**

**TEXT: John 5:1-11; Hebrews 11:1-6**

**THEME: True faith produces!**

**THRUST: Faith produces a testimony**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The first Sermon I preached here

at Mayer Community Church was on Faith.

Several times since then, on our anniversary,

We have returned to that message

and refreshed our understanding of faith.

The reason we have done that is because faith

is a critical component in our walk with God.

**Heb 11:6** tells us that without faith

it is impossible to please God.

Well, it's not our anniversary, that takes place

the first Sunday in April — which this year is Easter;

but, I think we need to refresh our minds concerning faith.

Rather than preach what you have heard

at least three times in the past six years,

I want to give you again our definition of faith

and then focus on a primary characteristic of faith.

*Faith is hearing a word from God and heeding the will of God  
Not with the head but from the heart.*

That *Word from God* may be a general word to all His people;

as we saw several weeks ago from **1 Thess 5:18**

*“In each and every circumstance, give thanks, for this is God’s will, in Christ Jesus, concerning you.*

That *general Word from God* will produce the Will of God

in each and every believer that practices it.

The first time and every time!

That *Word from God* may also be hearer specific.

Meaning, God may tell you, as He did Peter,

to speak to a certain individual.

After hearing that *Word*, when you heed that *Word*

you will have done the *Will of God*.

On the other hand, we can put a block between

what we hear and whether or not we respond.

When that happens, we are no longer walking by faith,

as a matter of fact, we are walking in sin;

because, *“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”* —Rom 14:23

We have come to understand then,

that faith is a very exact thing.

There is no guessing involved;

and, there is certainly no such thing as “blind faith”.

The term “blind faith” is an oxymoron.

Faith helps us see more, and to see clearer than pre-faith.

Now, the amazing thing about our Christian walk is that

for this hearing of the *word of faith*

and for doing the *work of faith*

God has given us His Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit helps us to hear and understand  
the Word from God.

The Holy Spirit also helps us to heed the Will of God

These two components must be present in order for

our actions or our walk to be called *faith*.

According to the Apostle James,

*faith* of the caliber that we have been speaking of

always, always, *always* produces something visible

or tangible — **always!**

For example: When Jesus told the crippled man

to take up his bed and walk, that man heard

a *Word from God*.

He was now faced with a choice.

He could do as Jesus said,

or remain where he was.

He had a choice.

To literally walk as a result of faith;

or, to remain where he was,

but he could not remain *as* he was

because he was no longer powerless.

May I suggest to you that his healing

was *not* a result of his personal faith?

His healing was a result of the faith of Jesus!

It was Jesus that heard the *Word from God*.

It was Jesus that heeded the *Will of God*.

It was Jesus' faith

that brought healing to this man

— **v.9** and ***immediately*** he was made whole.

Now it is up to him to exercise *his* faith

based on what Jesus did and on what Jesus said.

He could have ignored the voice, or, do as he did.

He reacted in obedience.

He reacted in faith.

He stood up, picked up his bed and,

miracle of miracles, walked.

Beloved, it is because of Jesus

that we have the *ability* to walk by faith.  
but, we *must* be obedient in our walk of faith  
in order to see the results.

The result of our faith is *not* our *ability* to walk!

The result of our faith is something different;

it's just as visible,

as the difference between

being impotent and being able to walk.

Do you know what it is? **v.11**

Do you know now what it is? **Heb 11:2**

I really like the KJV rendering better!

Do you know what it is? **Heb 11:4** (twice)

Do you know what it is? **Heb 11:5**

Do you know what it is? **Heb 11:39**

There is a Greek word used in all those verses from Heb 11

*Martureo* — from that we get our word *martyr*

The word means — *testimony / witness*.

**Heb 11:2** states that it is through faith that we have a *testimony*!

· One of the *works* that is produced by faith  
is our testimony.

— We *testify* by our life, by the way we walk  
and such testimony shows the light of Jesus  
to others.

— We *testify* by our lips, and are,  
according to **1 Peter 3:15**  
to always be ready to give an answer  
to the hope that is in us.

· Another of the *works* that is produced by our faith  
is found in **Heb 11:4**

— This is astounding.

— This is awesome.

— This is available for you and me.

**God becomes our defense! He testifies on our behalf.**

Talk about a good character witness!

**Ps 7:10** My defense is of God, which saves the upright in heart.

**Ps 31:2** Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defense to save me.

**Ps 59:9** Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense.

**Ps 59:16** But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble.

**Ps 59:17** Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy.

**Ps 62:2** He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

**Ps 62:6** He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved.

**Ps 89:18** For the LORD is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

**Ps 94:22** But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge.

**Conclusion: Victory Chorus 155**