

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Faith Releases the Power of God April 16, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

Faith is being convinced of something; being fully persuaded; leaving no room for doubt. What we believe and have faith in governs our lives. What we believe to be true is the substance of our faith and frames our future. Hebrews 11 says that faith is the substance of things hoped for. Faith is a prophetic dimension that we see and define through the eyes of our heart. Jesus said to Thomas, you believe because you saw me; blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed. This is what faith looks like – you have not seen it with your natural eyes, but believe it is so. Faith does not happen in the mind but in the heart.

The centurion came to ask Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus said he would go with the centurion to release healing, but the centurion said to Jesus, just say the word and my servant will be healed. The centurion coupled his faith in Jesus with the understanding of the power of authority released when a command is spoken. The centurion's servant was healed by the word spoken and Jesus called this great faith.

In Psalm 107 David says that God sent His word and healed them. Faith releases the power of God, there is power in the word that God speaks. Abraham believed God when God told him he would have a son, and it was credited to him as righteousness. There was power in the word God spoke to Abraham to bring about Isaac from a man and woman that had passed childbearing age. We have faith in God – we believe His word.

2 Peter 1.3-4 TPT

³ **Everything we could ever need for life and godliness has already been deposited in us by his divine power.** For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing him **who has called us by name and invited us to come to him** through a glorious manifestation of his goodness.

⁴ As a result of this, **he has given you magnificent promises that are beyond all price, so that through the power of these tremendous promises we can experience partnership with the divine nature,** by which you have escaped the corrupt desires that are of the world.

- All that we need has already been deposited in us. How? By the spoken word that is filled with divine power – power to create and make a new thing!
- All these magnificent promises have been spoken and they are filled with His power!
- God has opened the door for us to partner with Him. We partner by faith, by believing what has not been seen yet but is still in promise form.
- Hebrews 11.39 says, these were all commended for their faith, yet none of them had received what had been promised.
 - Why were they commended? Because through faith they were absolutely convinced that God was able to do all things.
 - They knew the power of God's spoken word.

2 Peter 1.10-11 TPT

¹⁰ For this reason, beloved ones, **be eager to confirm and validate that God has invited you to salvation and claimed you as his own.** If you do these things, you will never stumble. ¹¹ **As a result, the kingdom's gates will open wide to you** as God choreographs your triumphant entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah.

- "Claimed you as his own". "The Greek word is 'ekloge' (from his logos word). **God spoke and you were his. You are meant to be a 'chosen word' from his mouth, and you will not return to him void, but you will accomplish what he has destined for you to do."**

- God has opened the gates for us to walk and speak His word in some intense places, and He is using us as a word from His mouth.

Isaiah 11.4b NIV

...And **He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.**

- God's word is the rod that strikes the earth. He speaks and the power of His word is like lightning – it strikes the mark.
- His breath that carries the word slays whatever is opposed to His word.
- We are a chosen word in God's mouth – as we partner with Him, we become part of the rod of His mouth.
- What is the rod? An instrument of His government.

The Bible references a 5-tiered governmental structure in the earth.

- In the demonic.
 - Rulers in high places.
 - Principalities.
 - Dominions.
 - Powers.
 - Minions.
- In the ekklesia or church (all carry portions of these gifts and anointings through Christ in us).
 - Apostles.
 - Prophets.
 - Pastors.
 - Teachers.
 - Evangelists.

Rulers in high places and apostles are responsible for the same task.

- To set doctrine or the belief system – where faith will be placed – and create culture.
- In every region there is a ruler in a high place that needs to be contested by an apostolic voice to replace demonic doctrine and create a Kingdom culture.
- Each region has been claimed by a ruler in a high place that wants to govern the region.
 - The prince of Persia in Daniel.
 - The goddess of Diana in the city of Ephesus.
- The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The mandate to Adam and Eve was to take dominion and expand the Garden. Jesus said to pray or govern like this: Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Release Heaven into the earth through the word God puts in your mouth. Faith releases the power of God.
- God has made us a word in His mouth to release the apostolic governmental decree that establishes the belief system and the culture of His Kingdom – on earth as it is in Heaven. By His breath He will slay the wicked. Believe in your heart and confess or decree with your mouth.

DECLARATION:

1 Thessalonians 1.4-5, For we know that God loves Detroit and Michigan – He has chosen you, Detroit, because the gospel came to you not simply with human words or words of humanism, but the gospel came and was planted in this City and this State by words of POWER, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction and faith in God!

We decree over our State and to Detroit that you will bring forth a spiritual harvest. There is a new life, a new vision, a new hope, and a new sound of vibrancy at work in our land and among the people. It is the sound of life and the sound of God's Kingdom come!

Pure Michigan belongs to the Lord.