

UNDERSTANDING FAITH SERIES

TWO WAYS OF RECEIVING BY FAITH

Last week we talked about discerning faith. Heb. 11:1-3 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.*

In the last messages we have been discussing the difference of receiving by exercising personal faith in the anointing within your spirit man and receiving by exercising faith in the anointing upon another person's ministry. There are similarities but we need to know the differences so that we know when we should be exercising personal faith in the anointing within and flow with the principles involved. And when we should be exercising faith in the anointing upon and flow with the principles involved.

Bear in mind that the spiritual realm is not a realm that we cannot understand. The spiritual realm as far as God is concerned is systematic. His administration is well organized and there are laws that govern the spiritual realm. Of course when we don't understand something it is a mystery. Just like electricity was a mystery to men. Only when the man grew in the understanding of how electricity operates can man tap on the laws of electricity to their benefit. Similarly the spiritual realm is a mystery only as long as you don't understand it. But once there is an understanding of the laws that govern the spiritual realm its no longer a mystery. It is no mystery when people get healed. It is no mystery when miracles take place. We understand the laws that govern those areas. In talking about receiving by personal faith and

receiving by the anointing of God, for the past few weeks we have been touching on the difference between acting by faith in the anointing within your spirit man and acting by faith in the anointing upon a minister of God. Then there is difference between discerning faith under the anointing within and discerning faith by the anointing upon. There is also a difference between receiving what we believe by the anointing within and receiving what we believe by the anointing upon. There is a difference.

In the life of Jesus Christ you would notice that every healing is to an extent instantaneous. Every time when He spoke the Word, there was a healing. And even when there was a gradual healing it does not take longer than an hour or a day. Under normal circumstances we would consider that quite instantaneous. And the question rest in Christians' minds is why is it that in Jesus' life it is that way. And today sometimes when people are exercising faith it takes them a year or two or even ten years before they see results. Why is it there is such a difference?

We need to understand in receiving by faith there is a difference in the time it takes to receive from the anointing within your spirit man and the time it takes to receive from the anointing upon a minister's life. When Jesus was on this planet earth during His three years ministry He ministered primarily by the anointing upon. In fact I would go as far as to say that was the main way and the only way He ministered in His three years of ministry. See the anointing within was not manifested until after the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost when there was such a thing as being born of the Spirit. So in all the incidences in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John Jesus ministered by the anointing upon. You would read about passages of faith. But as we see that even in the anointing upon faith is required. So the faith that is exercised under the anointing upon and the principles that govern the receiving by the anointing within fall under the laws of faith. All those miracles in Jesus' ministry took place because of the anointing upon. Therefore there is a difference.

The bible says Jesus is the first born from the dead, talking of His resurrection. It is only after He was resurrected that the miracle of the born again experience can take place in the hearts and in the lives of human beings. After He was resurrected people have the opportunity to experience what we call the born again experience.

And the born again experience is receiving the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. It is called the anointing within. I Jn.2: 27 says *But the anointing, which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.* This is the unction or the anointing within that teaches you all things and helps us to operate in certain realm. For that reason we began to see that after the resurrection of Jesus and from the start of the church age we have the opportunities to see the manifestation of the anointing within and the manifestation of the anointing upon. There are differences involved. When we receive by the anointing upon there will be an immediate manifestation when the act of faith is done. There will be a certain measure of manifestation. In the anointing upon there will be a discerning of faith by the one who minister to discern the presence of faith in the person who wants to receive from the minister's anointing. The one receiving from the minister's anointing will exercise his or her own faith and rest on the minister's faith.

So lets continue where we left off last week in Acts 14:8 *Now at Lystra there was a man sitting, who could not use his feet; he was crippled from birth, who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking; (faith was coming) and Paul, looking intently at him (last week we said the reason why he observed him intently was to discern faith) and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and walked.* Instantly the man was healed. Paul discerned faith and there was an instant miracle that took place when an act was done. There was an act of faith and there was a command to act.

Last week we balanced it by saying how that unless you discern faith you should not act. You should build up faith in your hearers until you could discern faith in them. For if faith is not there the act will futile, it would be disastrous too. After discerning faith the act is done. When the act is done upon discerning faith there is always a change that takes place in the physical. And in this case there was an instant miracle. But in the book of Acts chapter three a similar healing in Peter and John's ministry is recorded in some details. Peter and John were on their way to prayer and it was about the ninth hour, which means it was about three o'clock in the afternoon. In Verse 2 *And a man lame from birth (here is another man who is lame and never walked before) was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of those who entered the temple. Seeing Peter and John*

about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John.

Peter was walking by when he asked for alms. Peter fixed his eyes on him. Notice that is the exact thing that Paul did in Acts 14. Acts 14 says Paul looked intently at the crippled man, discerned faith in him and commanded him to act. The man did not know that he had faith. As we have said that according to our spiritual level we can discern faith. The man did not discern faith. Paul discerned faith and got him to act and he received. Here is Peter doing the same thing. The first word of Peter to the man was not *rise in the name of Jesus*. The first word of Peter was *look at us*. And those first words were as important as the other words that say *I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have*; they are as important. It means that there was a discerning of faith taking place. And as we mature in the Lord we may not need that eye ball to eye ball contact once you know what its like. You could sense faith even from a distance. You could sense faith in an atmosphere. When two thousand people are gathered together you could sense faith in certain areas and the lack of faith in other areas. You can learn to discern faith.

So Peter says, "Look on us," fixing his eyes on him. *So he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them*. Remember he was there everyday and the church had a meeting everyday. Everyday they saw the man but they did not pronounce healing on the man. Nor did the man demonstrate any position of receiving like he did on that very day. Some time had passed by. See sometimes when we are not healed in a meeting and we keeping coming to hear God's Word and sitting under an anointed atmosphere, a time may come when faith drops into your spirit and its time to receive the healing. In Kathryn Khulman's meeting some of the people who came were healed by the third time or the fourth time they attended, not the first time. For many it was the first time. But for some it was several times before they reached a level where the miracle of God operated upon their lives. And it's the same way in this man's life.

And here Peter said *I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk*. So a command was given to this man to act. You never give a command to act unless you discern faith. And so here he discerned faith and gave a command to act. Apparently the man didn't act yet. It looked different from Paul's incident. In Paul's incident he raised his voice and the man just stood up. But

here a command was given and apparently there was no reaction yet. And in verse 7 *And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.* Please note that the manifestation took place only when the act was released. Not when the command was released. It was when the action took place. The bible says as he lifted him up immediately his feet and ankles received strength. This is quite instantaneous. And there was an anointing upon that was already flowing in that kind of atmosphere they were in and faith was required. Faith is required to exercise even when there is an anointing upon.

In Mark chapter 6 Jesus had the anointing upon but it did not operate because the people in His hometown did not have faith in Him. Even if you have an anointing upon and if you don't have faith it will not operate on you. Faith is essential. Don't think that just because there is an anointing upon you don't need to do anything else. God is sovereign He will do what He wants. Faith is required. Sometimes it is the faith of somebody else. In Kathryn Khulman's meeting it looks as if sometimes some people who were healed did not have faith. Let me tell you somebody was praying for them and exercising faith on their behalf. God does not violate His Word. Heb. 11: 6 tells us without faith it is impossible to please God. There is no way God is going to do anything without faith in the anointing upon or anointing within. You can't violate the principles of faith. And later Peter did say that it was faith that made the man strong.

We know that for the anointing upon to operate faith must be exercised. This is where we want to show the difference between receiving by faith under the anointing upon and receiving by faith from the anointing within. Receiving by faith under the anointing upon brings forth an instantaneous miracle. It brings forth an instantaneous manifestation. Whereas receiving by the anointing within may not have an instantaneous manifestation. It may be more gradual. We must understand the difference between the two types of faith and anointing in order to flow along with them. The manifestation under the anointing within may not come as much as from the anointing upon.

In the book of Philippians chapter 2:25 *I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and*

minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy; and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete your service to me.

There was a time when Epaphroditus was sick and the news went back to the Philippians that he was sick and he was with Paul. So in this particular case there was a process of time before Epaphroditus' healing took place. He was sick and news got down to Philippians that he was sick. In this particular case a healing did take place. But this particular healing seems to have come from a different aspect of God's laws and we would classify his healing under the laws of personal faith in the anointing within. There are reasons here for the cause of that sickness. It says in verse 30 that it was because he overworked himself. So in this particular case the physical law of rest was broken and sickness had an opportunity to come in. And when you exercise personal faith to receive your healing from the anointing within, you must consider the laws that were broken. There are physical, spiritual, emotional, mental disorders that cause sickness. Sickness does not come without a cause. But don't go around asking, "I wonder what sin he has committed." Sometimes the reason is physical. In Epaphroditus' case he did not break a moral law although breaking moral laws do bring sickness in the long run. He broke a physical law: he strained beyond his body's limits.

Although we may receive healing by exercising personal faith in the anointing within, we should not have this attitude that we don't need anyone else. Some people say, "Praise God I can receive everything by myself. I don't need anybody else. I just need God, the Word and me." They don't realize this principle too. There are some things that we can get from the other people's experience. If a person takes five years to discover a particular spiritual truth, I don't want to sit under that person's ministry since I may take five years to get that person's experience too. But if I sit under another person's ministry in five minutes I may get what he has already obtained in the last five years. See that's the advantage of learning from others. So there is a balance and we need to understand the difference in these two realms. It applies in healing and it applies in finances.

When you exercise personal faith in the anointing within the manifestation comes slower. There are two causes for that. Firstly, laws that are broken need to be set right. If you exercise personal faith to receive in any realm finances or healing or spiritual blessings, you will never receive until you make right the laws that were broken whether it be spiritual, soulish or physical laws. So because of that there could be a delay in the manifestation, for it takes time for these laws to be set right.

The second reason is because of demonic opposition. Satan will oppose you and try to stop you from receiving God's blessings. There will be resistance from the enemy. The enemy who brought the curse upon your life will not let go easily. So these two reasons cause a delay in the manifestation.

Lets look over on the anointing upon when you receive. Those same principles of delay operate. Satanic opposition still delays. And the root causes are there but there is a different. When somebody exercises faith together with us it does something to the enemy. See we may not be so victorious in resisting the enemy by ourselves. But when we yield and submit to another person's faith and anointing, that person's anointing and words will drive out the enemy forces that were preventing the manifestation. So you can see the reason for exercising faith in another person's anointing upon is that you get results faster. But to keep that healing or blessing permanently, you have to go to that realm too. You have to quickly build up the Word in your spirit man so that you could keep the enemy from attacking you with doubts and robbing you of your blessing. In addition to that, whatever laws were broken that caused you to need that healing and blessing, you have to come to God and say, "God I am willing to change my life in any realm that You ask me to." And the secret in this area is learning to keep your healing or blessing.

Lets go into some practical areas when you exercise faith. In case you need more scriptures you can study scriptures like Timothy's stomach. He was an apostle and he had a stomach problem. You know what are the reasons? There are two that I can bring out from the bible. One is probably his timidity and it has to do more with his character. You can see in the way Paul had to tell him to fulfill the ministry

of an evangelist that he was not fulfilling it fully. Paul had to remind Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear. Secondly there was a physical cause. And Paul gave him a physical remedy too. So it definitely points to the fact that in this case Timothy's stomach healing was taking place and during the time Paul wrote to him it was still taking place.

The wonder of it all is sometimes God determines whether you are to receive something by the anointing within your own spirit man or by the anointing upon somebody else. Sometimes you can cry and say, "Lord please let me receive my healing/blessing by the anointing upon that man of God." God says, "No it is time that you grow up and exercise your personal faith in the anointing within you that I have placed in your spirit man." Something is wrong if a 10-year-old child says, "Please can I keep my milk bottle?" When you are small as a little baby you get carried around. But you can't keep on carrying a child until he is 18 years old. The child will never grow. The leg muscles will never grow. We need to put the child down. They walk and they fall and cry and you comfort them. They have to learn to walk. There is a time that comes when the child has to walk on his or her own.

Its amazing how many people get discouraged very fast when they exercise personal faith in the anointing within. As you are learning to exercise personal faith in a certain realm, be prepared that the manifestation may not take place that fast. Remember the two forces that are delaying the manifestation. Firstly, there are the broken laws and some of them may be quite deep rooted, and they need to be set right. Secondly there is satanic opposition.

While you are doing exercising faith for your healing or blessing, either from the anointing within you, or from the anointing upon someone else, remember the respective principles governing each type of anointing. It makes it easier when you know the principles involved. Receiving impartation or blessing or healing from the anointing upon another person gives you an opportunity to accelerate changes in your life. On your own, exercising personal faith in your own anointing within may require a length of time for the manifestation to come. We must not overdo certain things. We must give time for the Word to take effect. We have spoken about it on this series on faith of how people want last minute harvest. Tomorrow they need a miracle today they start reading the Word. There is a season. You don't plant rice

today and tomorrow expect a rice harvest. You cannot violate certain time pattern and season that God has set. The Word is a seed. That implies that it takes time to grow. And sometimes people wait until they experience financial problem and then quickly get into God's Word and start confessing. They confess the Word for one week, and after two weeks when they find that the results haven't come in yet, they say it never work. Just like a little child walking and the child stumble and fell and say, "I will never walk again." They have to learn to walk. In the same way in the spirit realm we learn to exercise faith. It is like a seed that takes a span of time to bud and grow. Therefore when you are not having financial problem that's when you have to keep up with the Word of God. You may have to start planting the Word today for next year's harvest. You don't wait until the problem come and then start getting into the Word. It is too late. At that time you may get your blessing or healing by the anointing upon somebody else and it is only by His grace and mercy. But sometimes if you prove yourself negligent in that area, God will not do it for you, because God wants you to correct it. At times His mercy will let you go and you keep receiving it by the anointing upon. But still in a long run you would have to deal with this area here. And in this realm we have to understand how to operate in the natural and flow with it.

Like for example lets say your child has a high fever. And the high fever reaches a point where convulsion starts taking place. And you know what to do. You start bringing water and you start sponging the child to bring the fever down. And there you are confessing, 'By His stripes you are healed.'" But that was about one year since you have used those words. And you have never seriously confessed God's Word. And there you are you start exercising faith at that time on the spot and it is like a last minute faith. The whole night you are exhausted exercising faith. And the manifestation did not come instantly. What happens when it doesn't manifest immediately? And there you are the whole night you have not slept. The whole night for the first time you pull out your list of healing scriptures. You wipe off the cobwebs from it. You pull out your bible and in fact it took you one hour to find it because you forgot where you have put it. You started confessing God's Word. And as you are confessing God's Word, a friend comes by and says, "Why don't you send the child to the hospital?" "No, no, I am exercising my faith." Now this is what a person should have done. In some circumstances going along by the natural and going with medicine can be contradictory to faith, especially if there is faith already in your heart. You have discerned you have faith and God specifically spoke to you. But when there is no manifestation that proves to me that your faith

is not complete. When you exercise faith either in this realm of the anointing within or in that realm of the anointing upon there must be some sort of manifestation. If there was no manifestation then your faith is not complete. Think about that statement. It is perfectly scriptural. You never find a time in the bible when people exercise faith and it never work.

Drawing from the scriptures we can make this strong statement that every time when God's people exercise complete faith and perfect faith there will be some manifestations. If the manifestation does not come instantly or if there is no change that you see then faith has not been completed. And in that realm that means the Word still needs to get into your spirit man. And under those circumstances this is what you should do. Here the child is having convulsions. You haven't slept for the whole night. You are trying to get some sleep and you are trying to get some Word. The situation still confronts you. You know there is a delay to the manifestation. It would have been wiser for you to bring the child to the hospital if there is no manifestation. The nurses are caring for the child. It gives you time to sleep. It gives you time to take a physical rest for some hours. Then you wake up refreshed and you get some more of the Word. In the hospital you don't have to do any work. You don't have to carry water to and fro. And you could spend all those hours confessing the Word. That would have been the method to do. If you don't understand these two realms of faith operating, you would assume that any relationship with hospital or medicine is against faith. That is not true.

Lets take another example here. Lets say a person is exercising faith for good eyesight. His eyes are so bad that it is about 1000 degrees. He could not see even a huge 12-wheeler truck from 10 feet. So here he is claiming God's healing. Bless God I am healed and he acts in faith. He took his glasses off and crushed it under his shoes. He got into his car. Every time he gets to a traffic light he had to stop and get out. Let me see if it is green or not. And there he is exercising faith by His stripes I was healed. Let me encourage you in this. If the manifestation does not come yet and your eyesight is that bad, you not only endanger yourself, you endanger some other people as well. What you should have done is this. If your eyesight is that bad and you can't see without using your glasses, then at other times when you don't need it like when you are at home just relaxing away take it off and exercise your faith. But when you need your glasses put it back. When do you throw it away? When the full manifestation comes. And sometimes it can get better and better

when you keep changing glasses. That would have been the wiser way to move. For example if you receive and your faith is full whether it is from the anointing within or anointing upon there will be some manifestations. If there is no manifestation then your faith is not complete. If your faith is not complete then you need to make the best use of whatever is there while your faith is building up.

Lets take another example, some people exercise faith for safe and painless delivery. "Bless God I am redeemed from the curse of the Lord." The wife is expecting. The wife also claims God's blessings. "Bless God when my wife gives birth there will be no pain at all. I am redeemed from the curse of the Lord. I am redeemed from birth pain." Good confession. Then they take a step further. I want a perfectly natural, childbirth at home. You have no training whatsoever. You hardly know what to do when the baby comes out. You have no proper tools. Praise God, childbirth at home with only you and your wife. If you don't have the training you need to get the best means possible. It is not contradictory to faith when there is a lack on your side and the manifestation does not come. What you can do is there you get the best means, giving birth in the hospital, air-condition comfort, nurses all around you.

When you exercise faith for childbirth without pain, there are three things that you have to take note. No. 1 you have to understand your body, and flow with your body. This is what I got from my wife. We exercised faith for a painless delivery for the first child. We didn't quite make it for there was pain. But on the second child she only felt contraction without pain. So it works. It takes some time to get it working but it works. No. 1 the woman must understand her own body.

No. 2 you must fight fear with all that you have. You must not allow one iota of fear to come into you. Fear is the greatest enemy, fear of pain and fear of circumstances.

No. 3 get into God's Word all that you can. When we succeeded in the second one we wanted to know the reason. So we sat down and prayed and discussed and we found that was a probable reason. When she was in the hospital for the first delivery, there were the normal symptoms that the child is coming out. The first

doctor that we had liked to do everything fast so he broke the water bag. But the second doctor was a very good one and he said, "Let it take its time to burst by itself." So we found that if nature had been allowed to take its course we probably could have succeeded in having a painless delivery for the first child. So there you have it that when you receive things by personal faith there will be some manifestations and some changes. Sometimes the manifestation comes and goes off and you have to exercise faith again. Then you know that you need help. You know that is not enough.

Let me conclude with this statement if your faith has been perfected over here in personal faith in the anointing within and you exercised your faith that one act is enough. It won't take long. It won't delay for one month. So any delay has to do with our faith still growing and faults and unrighteousness in our lives that are being dealt with. However when you exercise faith in the anointing upon somebody else' ministry, the manifestation is instant but you will have to learn to keep your healing or blessing. So without understanding of faith we will not be condemned. I would say if you are exercising faith and the situation is still getting worse there is something wrong definitely. If your faith is working it would have worked. It would have caused some forces to change in the natural. Because Heb. 11:1 says faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. There is going to be some evidence in the natural. There is going to be some changes that start taking place in the natural. Even if it is a little bit of faith there will be changes and manifestation. Your faith is in the spirit realm and it is affecting the natural. Just like Jesus when He cursed the fig tree. Even though you can't see the effects until the following day there was a change instantly. The roots started to die. So there is something being affected in the natural every time you exercise faith. If there are hindrances then we have to learn to analyze what they are, where they are coming from and deal with them accordingly.

