

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

by Hubert Bunney

Hubbert Bunney is a 1957 graduate of the AG's Eastern Bible Institute. He has pastored several churches and has been president and founder of three Assemblies of God bible schools. Many of the graduates of these schools are now serving the Lord in various denominations. Since 1987, Hubbert and his wife Harriet have travelled in mobile ministry, teaching and healing in churches throughout the country.

FAITH IS FIRST: (By emphasis in the Bible)

The way you find out the importance of things in scripture is by the Hermeneutical principal that says the quantity of times that something is found in the bible puts the emphasis on it. Some people say that's just a man-made rule, but it's a man-made rule that is found in God's word. It says, "...*comparing spiritual things with spiritual things*." I can't think of anything more spiritual than love and faith and so we compare them. We compare them by comparative study, and you come up with seeing the value.

Now, "**love**" in the New Testament comes from the word "**phileo**" and "**agape**." There are other words, but these are the major ones. Then there are words in the Old Testament. **Phileo** is used 18 times in the New Testament (that's brotherly love, i.e., to befriend someone) and **agape** is the love of God that needs no return (it is very unselfish). Then, I have the word "affection." **Agape** is used 81 times, affection 9 times, and all the other words that are part of these words, 409 times. So that would be 517 times that the word "love" appears in the bible. Now, if I said to you some kind of phrase like "Be good..." and I said it 100 times, you would say, "You know what? He wants us to be good!" You would know it because of the emphasis. So God said love 517 times. Does He want us to love? He sure does. Love is of God.

Then I looked up this word "faith" and I was a little shocked because I thought love would be more times in the bible than faith. And I find that faith is more than love by a long shot. The word in the New Testament, the way you would say it in the English, is "**Pistis**", and that's translated 245 times. And then there are two words for faith in the Old Testament. You will only find the actual word "faith" in the Old Testament 2 times, but 245 times you have the word "**pistis**" translated as "faith" in the New Testament. "Belief," in both old and new testaments is 301 times, "trust" 183 times, and "hope" 137 times for a total of 868 times.

Now, there are 1,169 chapters in the bible. You have the word "faith" 868 times. So, you run into the word "faith" on an average of about every one and a quarter chapters. It is kind of hard to preach the bible without preaching faith because it is all over it. If you subtract 517 from 868 you come up with 351. That is 351 more times you have faith in the bible than love. So we have two important subjects.

The bible tells us, "*Now abideth faith, hope and charity (which is agape love there), the greatest of these is charity (or love).*" So, love is greatest but faith is first. You can't have love without faith. You can't have anything from God without faith. Everything you receive is by faith, "...*not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us*" and faith is not of ourselves. It is the gift of God.

I want to share three scriptures that showed me the importance of faith.

FAITH FOR FREEDOM:

Rom 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or offended, or is made weak.

If I would invite an orthodox Jewish family to our home and my wife would cook pork chops, I would be insulting the family that we invited. So, we sure wouldn't serve them pork chops because we don't want to offend, we want to win. We want to be winsome, not offensive. You see, there are things you can do and someone else esteems you. They see you doing it, they try to do it, and it weakens them. And the bible says, *"if you don't eat meat you're weak in the faith"* (if you don't eat meat for religious purposes, that is). Now, if meat or milk doesn't agree with you, than don't eat or drink it. I knew a bible teacher we had in bible school, named Bill Bailey, who couldn't eat onions. I love to eat them like apples but Bill Bailey, he would writhe in pain because his body rejected onions. So, whatever your body rejects, don't eat it. But for religious purposes, if you have faith and God has cleansed all meat, you can eat them all. Eat it in faith.

Rom 14:22 Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

Notice what it says here about faith. Happy is the person that doesn't condemn himself. See, we can get to the place where you can condemn yourself about anything. Some people condemn themselves just for eating. When I was a youngster, I went to a very strict church and my parents were very strict. If I was walking through the woods and it was real hot, and I took my shoes off and put my feet in the water on Sunday, I felt I sinned. They used to talk about keeping the Sabbath holy and Sabbath was Saturday, but keep Sunday holy. And that was sin because a lot of things were sin. You were condemned in a lot of things but it is wonderful to be able to walk through the woods when you're hot, put your feet in the water, and enjoy it without condemning yourself. But take a look at this next verse.

Rom 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

If you eat and can't eat in faith, it is damning. Anything you do, eating, drinking or whatever it is, if it is not done in faith it is sin. You can pray not in faith and sin. You can plow your field as a farmer and if it is not unto God and not in faith, it is sin. *"The plowing of the wicked is sin,"* the bible says.

Whatsoever you do, its got to be in faith. When you're in doubt about something you should do or shouldn't do, "When in doubt, leave it out." If you can't do it with perfect confidence toward God, leave it out until you educate yourself that it's okay (if it's okay). Now, sin is sin, no matter what you call it. You can't murder someone in faith. You can't steal in faith, but there are some things that are not in that category that we condemn ourselves with.

Peter was brought up that you never eat certain types of animals, so the Lord sent a sheet down from heaven with all manner of animals on it and even creepy things and he said, *"Rise and eat."* Peter said, "Not so Lord. Nothing unclean has come into my mouth." He meant nothing unclean, as far as the dietary law. The Lord did this 3 times to convince him that *"what God hath cleansed call not common."* See, even today, there are people that don't know that and so when they eat, they eat not in faith. And to them it is sin. So anything you do, must be done in faith.

Don't do things that you are condemned in doing, because that will sear your conscience. The conscience is very important, in that it makes a decision right or wrong on things. If you just run roughshod over it, you will sear it and it won't be able to register. You will not know when you're doing wrong or doing right. Some people have seared their conscience and do anything because they have nothing restraining them. We need divine restraint. So, whatsoever is not of faith is sin. This shows the importance of faith. We really need faith, don't we?

FAITH AS AN OFFERING:

In the honor roll of faith, chapter 11 of Hebrews, the word "faith" appears 24 times.

Heb 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

We need to please God and if we approach Him not in faith, we can't please Him. The importance of faith is that without faith, you can't please God. The word "rewarder" here means "payer or giver of wages." And "diligent" is not in the original but is contained in the word "seek." It means to seek out, or thoroughly seek. So, if we diligently seek God in faith, He will pay us. The idea of this word "rewarder" is tangible things. Sometimes when we're having a struggle financially, could it be we are not seeking the Lord diligently? Because to those who seek the Lord, He will add tangible things, He will pay. Did you ever think about getting paid to seek the Lord? The Lord is good to those who seek. How is He good? He gives tangible things.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you." He is a giver of wages to those who seek and of course, we need to seek the Lord diligently because we love Him.

FAITH FOR FORGIVENESS:

Another word on the importance of faith is forgiveness. Now, one of the most important things we can do is learn to forgive. When people wrong us, we must learn to forgive them because if we don't forgive the people who sin against us, God will not forgive our sin. Remember the Lord's Prayer (which is really the disciples prayer), "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" to the degree that as we forgive our debtors Lord, You forgive our debts against You. So, if you want to be forgiven, then you have to forgive. You can't hold a grudge and say, "I'll never forgive that person." If you do, God won't forgive you. Boy, if anything, we need forgiveness because *"all we have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.

Now, you would think because the context is forgiveness in verses 3 & 4, it would have nothing to do with faith. Suppose someone did you wrong 7 times in one day? You might say, "That phony. I don't think he is sincere at all. He's asked forgiveness 6 times and he sinned against me again." You have to have faith to believe that he is sincere at all. You've got to have faith to believe that he really means it when he says, "I repent."

I know people. They sin like breathing. Let's take in the realm of cursing. A guy has cursed in front of me and then remembered I was a preacher. He said, "Preacher, forgive me" and while he was saying "Forgive me," he cursed again. It just came out and he didn't even know he did it. Like it says, *"Paul breathed out slaughters against the church."* His anger was in every breath against the church before he got saved. He tried to put them all to death because he thought we were all heretics.

If you check another gospel on this idea of forgiveness, it says not only 7 times, but 70 times 7. Four hundred and ninety times in one day, you must forgive the person who sins against you. That is a lot of times. Some think we should say, "Increase our love, Lord" but the apostles who became the sent ones said, "Increase our faith." And I think they were right. To have the love that would forgive someone that much, you have to have faith to receive love. Have you ever been overwhelmed with something the Lord has asked you to do? You've said, "Oh Lord, increase my faith." It's true.

GENUINE FAITH IS QUALITY FAITH:

When you really get into faith, it is not a matter of bulk - it's a matter of quality. Quality faith can say to this mountain, be removed and cast into the sea, and it will happen. Our faith is not enough. In the bible, it makes a difference between belief and faith. There is a belief that is just of the mental. A fellow had a wire across Niagara Falls and went to get a wheelbarrow. He came back and asked, "How many believe I can go across the wire?" Everybody raised their hand, and then he said "Who wants to come and sit in the wheel barrow?" Nobody raised their hand. Nobody wanted to go. See, there is a difference between "I think you can do it, but I am not going to commit myself to go sit in that wheelbarrow."

In the bible, faith has these three ideas: 1)Mental ascent 2)Commitment thereto & 3)Perseverance therein. It has a stick-to-it quality. Continuation is an important thing. People who really believe, do it to the saving of their soul. John said, "They went out from us, for they were not of us." They didn't have the type that was biblical faith. What biblical faith is, and what people call faith, is different. I want to show you in the book of John, that we can have a mental belief only, and it doesn't do anything for us.

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. ²⁴But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, ²⁵and needed not that any man should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

They believed on Him mentally, but they didn't make any commitment to Him and He didn't make any commitment to them. They believed on Him without any commitment. They mentally agreed, this was the Son of God. The miracles proved it, but they didn't commit their life to it. They didn't live in the light of the miracle and Jesus wouldn't commit himself either.

In Romans, it shows a slight difference between belief and faith. What we want is to have God put to our account His righteousness, because our righteousness at its best, compared with God's, is like filthy rags. So, don't try and be justified by your righteousness, accept His.

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all them that believe.

Notice it is the faith of Jesus Christ. And whom does this come to? "...*Unto all and upon all them that believe.*" What's our part in this? To believe. His part is to impart the faith of Jesus Christ that puts righteousness of God to our account. We are not saved by our own faith. We are saved by the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are you saved by faith.

The grace of God is an unmerited thing. You don't merit being saved. It is not your faith. It is the gift of God. True Christianity removes all boasting. What do you have, that you have not received from God under special graces? Do you have a good voice? That was under special grace that God gave it to you. Do you have faith? Who gave it to you? God did, it is a gift of God. I want God to impart unto me more faith, his faith (quality faith), because my faith won't make it, but His faith will.

A HEARING FAITH:

Five times in the New Testament it says "O ye of little faith" (Matt 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8, & Luke 12:28). And each time it's not an approbation but a sort of condemnation. When Peter sank walking on the water, the Lord said "O ye of little faith" (Matt 14:31). In other words, you let the circumstances of the wind and the waves cause you to sink. Your faith is little, and it is not the way it should be. Remember something, the only man recorded in scripture outside of the Lord Jesus Christ, that walked on water was Peter. Someone says, "why didn't the other ones walk?" Because Jesus the Lord, did not bid them "come." He walked on C-O-M-E. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). The way faith comes is God communicating it to you. He didn't communicate to other disciples in the boat. It was nighttime, foggy and

misty out on the water, when Peter said, "if it's you Lord bid me to come" and he had the word from God. Many people try to walk on water without the word "come" and it doesn't work.

A fellow in my neighborhood when I was 12 years old was a religious man and he must have read in the scripture about Peter walking on the water. So he thought he could do it and it would be a fantastic way to share Gods glory with the city of New Castle. So, he put it in the paper and put it on radio, 2:00 pm on Sunday on this particular date I am going to walk on water. He really believed he was going to do it. Well, he took one step and sank right to the bottom. Everyone laughed and roared. Well, just because you read in the scriptures that Peter walked on water doesn't mean I'm going to do the same. See that's what people do with claim it and confess it theology. Peter walked on water, I'm gonna do it. That is presumption, not faith. Faith comes by some kind of communication from God.

The word "hearing" in Rom 10:17 is "rhema," which means specializing, and speaking to your heart. He can speak a scripture to your heart personally. It must be given to you and you must know it is for you. It is not true that every promise in the book is yours. Some promises were given to Abraham and some of us may not want children when we are 100 years old. So, God has to personalize things to your heart because faith comes that way.

GODS IMPARTATION OF FAITH:

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the body, I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Whose faith helps you to live the co-crucified, the co-risen life? The faith of the Son of God. You can't live it by your faith. So you're dependent upon His faith for salvation. *"By grace are you saved through faith that not of yourself."* And the victorious christian living is the same way. We need to ask God for His faith. We need to pray, "Lord, impart Your faith."

Gal 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

What is the answer to that question? The hearing of faith. It (the working of miracles) is not by works of righteousness we have done and it's not by obeying the word from the law. It is by hearing of faith that communication of God is to your heart and to your spirit.

THE MEASURE OF FAITH:

People say everybody has faith. But how come Paul said, *"All men have not faith"* (2 Thes. 3:2b)? And Jesus said, *"Oh faithless generation"* (Mark 9:19)? What would you say, faithless means no faith, a generation without faith? So according to the bible, it is possible to be without faith. Now, the scripture that most people use that "everyone has faith" is in the book of Romans.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, that every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt every man the measure of faith.

Who is Paul speaking to? He is talking to the church at Rome, to everyone among them. Now look at the context of verses 4 & 5:

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:"

There are apostles, prophets or teachers which show that we don't all have the same office. We are many members in one.

Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members of one another.

It is talking about the body of Christ. So the context of "God has dealt every man the measure of faith," is every member of the body of Christ: you that are among us – Christians!

Now, if you think that everyone has received a measure of faith, then you have a problem with the scripture, "All men have not Faith." Either they received it and did not have the type of soil for it to remain, or they never got it. One or the other. Now let's look at the type of soil that you have to have to keep it.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH:

1 Tim 3:9... Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

Why does the Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, writing to Timothy, talk about faith as a mystery, if faith is 2+2=4? Is faith just to mentally say "The pew will hold me up because it is strong?" That is not the faith of the bible because it is a gift from God. It's a mystery. If it were 2+2=4, it wouldn't be anything mysterious. This mystery here is a revealed secret. So we are to hold the revealed secret of faith in a pure conscience. Faith will continue, if the conscience is pure. It will grow. It will live there and if it's not pure, it won't.

Now, if your heart condemns you, there can be no confidence toward God, and one of the meanings of faith is confidence. You see, it can't if the heart is condemned. This is why I say to you: don't do anything your conscience does not allow you. Because if you override it and sear it, faith will be unable to live there, where it is not pure.

FAITH IS A FRUIT

Galatians 5:22, speaks about faith as a fruit. We talk a lot about faith as a gift, but it is also spoken about as a fruit. After it is given you, it is to grow. This word, "faith," here is one of those 245 times in the New Testament that comes from the word "pistis." So it is the correct translation for faith.

Now, it does not say, "The fruit(s) of the spirit are love." It says, "*The fruit of the spirit is love*" because we're not talking about nine different things or you would have to say, "The fruit(s) of the spirit are love." But since love is a singular collective noun, it's "*The fruit of the spirit is love.*" It's the joy of love. It's the peace of love or the longsuffering of love. These are all eight aspects of the love of God.

PROGRESSION OF FAITH:

2 Thes 1:3 We are bound to give thanks always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.

There is a progression of love like there is a progression of faith. So, faith is a gift of God and if it is in good soil (pure heart, good conscience), it will grow. The more you feed it, the more it will grow. Have you ever used the product Miracle Grow? It does your plants good. You're feeding it with something that will help it grow more. The bible says, "...*nourished up in the word of faith.*" Get into this book if you want faith. Meditate upon it until it gets into your spirit. This is the book that feeds faith. You can't get faith out of the newspaper. God loves His word and He loves to re-speak it. The Holy Spirit that inspired it many years ago likes to reveal

and inspire it to you today. And so faith groweth. I have heard bible scholars say, "Faith never grows. You have to receive it every time by a rhema of God." Not so! It can grow, if you have the right soil.

1 Cor 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Now, a text without the context is a pretext. If you take that verse out from its context, you would make it that there is no continuation in prophecy, and there is no continuation in knowledge. Wouldn't that be terrible, if when we go to heaven, we have no knowledge? We would all just be a bunch of dumbbells. But that is not what Paul is saying, if you check the context. What is done away with and is ceased, is the partial for the complete. God is going to do away with the partial for the complete and that takes place in your life, physically. For instance, you grow in stature, you grow in wisdom and in spirit. The swallowing up, the ceasing, and the doing away is to be caught up in something better. And that is what this chapter is saying.

1 Cor 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

Our problem is to know in part, and try and prophesy in whole. We know in part, we prophesy in part. There is a limitation on our prophecy.

1 Cor 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Now, "that which is perfect" has not yet come. It's not referring to the scriptures. Like many people say, "We got the bible. We don't need prophecy, we don't need tongues." It is in the subjunctive mood and it is uncertain as to when it will take place. But somewhere in eternity, we know it will come to pass.

1 Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Let me ask you a question. Is there anything wrong with a child speaking like a child or a child thinking or understanding like a child? Nothing wrong! But if a child continues to speak when it is a man (or a lady) like a child, then something is wrong. There hasn't been that growth or maturity. So becoming the man and putting away childish things, does that mean Paul no longer speaks, thinks, or understands? No, he has progressed. God wants progression whether it be in love or whether it be in faith.

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly;

Right now, spiritually speaking, we don't see it all, we don't see clearly. We have many things we don't understand. We see part. We see partial.

1 Cor 13:12 ..but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

There will be a progression in knowledge. What is done away is the partial knowledge. What is done away in prophecy is the partial prophesying incomplete. Tongues, is both speaking unto man and unto God. Communication with man will be complete. Have you ever wanted to explain something to someone and you did not have the vocabulary or knowledge to express it? In eternity we will have perfect communication with God. There will be a conveying to people with unlimited communication.

So, when you know in whole, you will prophesy in whole. That which is in part will be done away, not the prophesying. But the limitation of partial prophesying, partial knowledge, and the partial communication will all give way to complete communication. We are going to be great communicators. We are going to be able to tell people how much we love and appreciate them.

NOW FAITH

In closing, we want to go to the honor roll of faith.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Some people take this word "now" and they make it out that if you have faith, everything takes place now. This is not true. He says, "*now concerning spiritual gifts*;" He says, "*now concerning the collection of the saints*;" He said, "Now Enoch walked with God." In the year 2000 when you're reading the bible, Enoch is not walking with God like he is talking about on Earth. That was thousands of years ago. So, the "now" is, "*Now I want to talk to you about spiritual gifts*;" "*Now I want to talk to you about the collection of the saints*;" "Now I want to talk to you about faith."

And I will show you right in this chapter how the context denies this "now faith" type thing.

Heb 11:13a these all died in faith, not having received the promises,

People say to you, if you have faith it will take place now.

But "*these all died in faith*," not receiving the promise!

Heb 11:13b but having seen them a far off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

FAITH HAS MANY DIFFERENT FACES:

Now go to verse 32 because this is the very thing that happens to me, when I get on a subject like this.

Heb 11:32 and what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Ged-e-on, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jeph-thae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

In other words, I don't have time to tell you about all this faith. I don't have the time to go into all these men and of the prophets (and you could put 100 there). The writer gets toward the last eight verses of the chapter and says, "I don't have time to tell you about all this; so many things were done and endured by faith." So he begins to sum it up real fast.

Heb 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought 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, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Now, here are the others. All these seem to be positive: escaped the edge of the sword, received promises; "others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection." If God wants you to die as a martyr, don't try to exercise faith to get out of it. Yield to the dying as a martyr.

Heb 11:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: (Paul went to jail for the gospel). ³⁷ They were stoned, (Paul was stoned) they were sawn asunder (Isaiah was sawn asunder), were tempted, were slain with the sword: ...

Isn't escaping the edge of the sword the opposite of being slain with the sword? Some people by faith escaped, and some people endured and were killed by the sword. Faith has many different faces. Faith has a

negative and a positive. It is an enduring faith and deliverance faith. So it all depends on what the will of God is for your life.

Heb 11:37b .. they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins:

They were hiding so they wouldn't be killed. They didn't believe they should die as a martyr. They were not cowards. They put on sheepskins and crawled among the sheep to hide, and if it was a flock of goats, they put on a goatskin to crawl among the goats. They were not cowards. They felt that they should remain alive and faith will do anything to stay alive. If it is the will of God for you not to die as a martyr, then don't die as a martyr.

Heb 11:37c .. being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Now, some would get the idea, "I think the guys that subdued kingdoms and wrought righteousness and escaped the sword had more faith than the guys that died."

Notice the parenthesis here is for clarity:

Heb 11:38a (Of whom the world was not worthy:) ...

These people were too good for the world, and they died. In other words, the world did not deserve to have them here.

Heb 11:38b ..they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.³⁹And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

The ones who died by the sword had a good report through faith and the ones that escaped the sword had a good report through faith. Faith has many faces! And so, don't get on this kick that if you have faith everything will just go presto change-o and be taken care of.

In closing, I had a teacher in western Pennsylvania by the name of William Bailey, a godly man, a faithful and enduring man. He got cancer and people prayed. He prayed and God healed him completely; did not have a cancer cell in his body. He would go back for tests every three months and they would give him a full bill of health. This took place for four years - four years remission from cancer until he got cancer again. Everyone thought it was great while he was healed. Now he got cancer again. The same people prayed and he died of cancer.

While he was in the hospital, he would go to chew something and his jawbone would break (He had bone cancer). He would go to reach for something and his rib would crack. He was just laying in bed in traction, so his bone wouldn't fall apart and he was seeking God that He would heal him. And a guy came in with this "now faith." He said, "William Bailey, if you had faith, you would be healed now. You got sin in your life. That's why you're not healed." And Bill Bailey, instead of rebelling and being angry, said "Please tell me what my sin is that I might repent." The guy didn't know, see, he was just talking. He says, "You'll have to ask God and He'll tell you," and he left.

Is that the love of God, to kick someone when they're down? To tell them they don't have faith and they have sin? See, if God tells you that someone has sin, He'll tell you what the sin is. God doesn't say, "You are bad." If God convicts you, He says, "You have done thus and so. This is what you have to do to get out of it." He tells you the way out. This guy presented the problem and left him in the problem. Bill Bailey said, "Please tell me what my sin is that I might repent." Boy, that is humility, that is meekness. And so, I don't agree with

this idea that if you have faith, you're gonna be healed and if you don't have faith, you won't, because sometimes God has other plans for our life.

Paul was a chosen vessel to suffer many things for his namesake. He was chosen to be stoned for the glory of God.