

Faith Secret #1 – God’s Word and Potential Faith

Romans 10:17

- The first secret – Know where to get faith
- God’s Word gives us potential faith
- The amount of God’s Word stored in our hearts and minds is a measure of our Potential Faith
- Not Actual Faith until we ACT on what we know
- Three Components of Faith
 - Intellectual agreement with the facts
 - Trust in the Promises
 - Obedience to the Commands
- All of these are discovered in God’s Word
 - Facts
 - Promises
 - Commands
- Faith can be built by
 - Creation – Romans 1:20
 - Experience
 - The Body
- God’s Word gives clarity!

II Peter 1:20-21

- God directed the prophets!
- Unfortunately far too few people base faith on God’s Word!
- They base it on:
 - Feelings
 - Family Traditions – Mark 7:6-8, 13
 - Experiences – Matthew 7
 - Religious Leaders - Bereans – Acts 17:11-12
- We cannot base our faith on
 - Feelings
 - Family Traditions
 - Experiences
 - Religious Leaders
- It must be based on God’s Word
- Our Potential Faith is proportionate with the amount of God’s Word stored up

Little Word of God = Little Potential Faith

No Word of God = No Potential Faith

Much Word of God = Much Potential Faith

- God deeply desires to give us the gift of faith but it is through our study, meditation, memorization that we have Potential Faith
- Lets look at it from another teaching of Jesus: Parable of the Soils

Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

- Word of God produces Potential Faith, people's actions towards the Word determined Actual Faith
- Four Hearts:
 - Hard Heart – No response b/c too hard
 - Shallow Heart – Produces faith but it is shallow and withers
 - Entangled Heart – Produces faith but it gets choked
 - *"life's worries, riches and pleasures"*
 - Good Heart
 - Hear the word
 - Retain it
 - Persevere
 - Produce a crop
- Seed is Word of God and the Word of God is the source of our Potential Faith!
- The analogy is perfect!
 - Acorn
 - God doesn't come and zap every acorn
 - Each one has the potential power to give life and fruitfulness!
- So it is with the Word of God!
 - God doesn't miraculously zap people with faith
- Every verse, Quiet Time, Sermon, devo, podcast, lesson, contains the potential power to give spiritual life!
- It gives potential to produce a Godly man or woman who is in a right relationship with God through faith and who will live with Him forever!
- It is entirely up to us!
- Manna Principle

Deuteronomy 8:3

- Daily dependence
- Can I live without food for a day? Yes, but I get weaker
- Can I live without the Word of God for a day? Yes, but I get weaker
- Can I live without food for a week? Month? Etc? Yes, but I will get weaker and eventually die!
- Can I live without the Word of God for a week? Month? Etc? Yes, but I will get weaker and eventually die!
- God wants us to feast on His Word
 - So our faith can grow strong!
- Early Christianity
- Times of weakness
- Current decisions
 - Study John
 - Memorize II Timothy
- What is your plan for the New Year?
 - Read Radical Faith

- Believe Deeply
 - Read the Bible in a Year
- Faith Secret #1 = Our Potential Faith is directly proportional to the amount of God's Word we place on our heart!
- Little Word of God....
- As we do the Bible reveals
 - Facts to Know
 - Promises to Believe
 - Commands to Obey
- To unleash our Potential Faith
- Next Week: Faith Secret #2 – Humility and Potential Faith!