



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Activated Faith (From Promise to Possession pt 1)

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print it to study on your own or use it in a group to experience transformation together.

Message Theme

Faith That Moves Mountains: How to Trust in God's Promises

Prayer Focus

Father God, You're faithful, and Your promises never fail. Even when I cannot see the way forward, I choose to trust in Your Word and the certainty of Your character. Grow my faith, Lord, and help me stand firm when doubt whispers and fear rises. Remind me of what You've done and said. I'll hold fast to Your truth and walk by faith, not by sight. Let my heart be anchored in the confidence that You finish what You start. Thank You for being the God who moves mountains and makes a way where there seems to be none. In Jesus' name, amen.

Key Truths

Faith is not about forcing God to act; it's our response to what God accomplished. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we have the unshakable assurance that Jesus finished His work. We can rest in that truth. Faith is about believing in what we cannot see—the spiritual realm and the unseen work of God. Since it's impossible to please God without faith, we must rely on it to connect with Him. Faith looks different in the natural than it does in the spiritual. What seems impossible to us usually shows us God's possibilities.

The faith we start with isn't enough to get us through our entire lives. Our faith grows as we learn more about God, read the Bible, and meditate on it. The more we know about His character and promises, the deeper our trust in Him becomes. We can better understand the difference between God's blessings and the enemy's temptations. The Devil's tactics are predictable; he always targets what we know of God's Word, attempting to sow doubt and confusion.

We walk in faith when convinced that God will fulfill His promises. The story of Abraham beautifully illustrates this. Despite Abraham and Sarah being far beyond the age of having children, God promised them descendants as numerous as the stars. Abraham held onto that with unwavering hope and trust, standing firm in God's promises. True to His word, Sarah became pregnant with a child, which led to generations of descendants. Through Abraham's faithfulness and his steadfast decision to glorify God, his faith grew stronger, rooted in the assurance of God's reliability and power.

We can trust the Bible for two reasons. First, God cannot lie. His nature is truth, and His words are flawless and dependable. Second, He swore by Himself, the highest and most perfect authority, to fulfill His promises.

There's no one greater to swear by, and this demonstrates the absolute certainty of His Word.

When God speaks, it's not just a possibility; it's a guarantee. His promises are unchanging, and His character is unwavering. Because of this, we can stand firm, knowing that what He has said will come to pass, no matter the circumstances. When they accept Jesus, believers unite with Christ, which means all of God's promises are available to us; the answers are "yes" and "amen."

Practical Application

Learn to focus not on the natural circumstances but on God's promise and ability to do what He said He'd do.

When doubts or challenges arise, intentionally speak Scripture aloud to reaffirm your trust in Him rather than being swayed by your situation. Say something like this: *"God, I see the problem in front of me, and I believe You're good, You care about me, and You've got me in Your hands. I will focus on You rather than what I cannot control. I trust You."*

Reference Verses

- Hebrews 6:1-3, 11:1, 6:17
- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Romans 4:20-21, 10:17, 10:8
- Psalms 69:30, 116:7
- 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- Acts 11:14
- Psalms 89:34, 138:2
- Jeremiah 1:12
- 2 Corinthians 1:20, 4:13
- 2 Peter 1:2-4
- Numbers 13:27-33, 14:1-4, 14:28-29
- Joshua 14:6-14
- 1 Peter 5:8-9

Declarations

- I trust God's promises, even when I can't see the outcome.
- My faith grows stronger as I stand on God's Word and not on my circumstances.
- I believe what God spoke will come to pass; His Word is my foundation.

What's Next?

This message underscores that faith is not a passive acceptance of biblical truths, but an active, transformative force that shapes our daily lives. It's about responding to God's promises with unwavering conviction, speaking those promises into reality, and resisting the devil's attempts to undermine our belief. Applying these principles daily allows us to move beyond mere mental assent and experience the fullness of God's blessings and power.

First, cultivate a daily practice of immersing yourself in God's Word and identifying His promises. This involves setting aside time each day to read and study the Bible, not just for information, but to discover the specific promises God has for you – promises related to your health, your finances, your relationships, your purpose, and your future. As you encounter these promises, write them down, meditate on them, and personalize them, making them your own. This active engagement with God's Word is crucial for building and strengthening your faith, moving it from a general concept to a personal reality.

Second, actively respond to God's promises with both belief and declaration. This means not only believing in your heart that God will fulfill His word, but also speaking those promises out loud, both to yourself and to others. Like Abraham, who declared himself the father of many nations before he had any children, you must confess what God says about you, even when your circumstances seem to contradict it. This consistent declaration of faith reinforces your conviction, magnifies God's power in your life, and aligns your words with God's truth, creating an atmosphere where His promises can take root and flourish.

Finally, stand firm against the devil's attacks on God's Word by actively resisting his attempts to sow doubt and unbelief. This requires vigilance and a proactive approach. Recognize that the devil's primary tactic is to question God's promises, distort His character, and try to steal the Word from your heart. To counter this, arm yourself with the Word of God, using it as your offensive weapon, just as Jesus did. When negative thoughts or discouraging circumstances arise, combat them with Scripture, reminding yourself and the devil of what God has said. Resist him steadfastly, knowing that he must flee when confronted with the truth of God's Word and your unwavering faith.

Conclusion:

By consistently applying these three steps – immersing yourself in God's promises, responding with belief and declaration, and resisting the devil's attacks – you can transform your daily life into a powerful expression of faith. This active faith will not only enable you to receive all that God has for you but also empower you to live victoriously, overcoming every challenge and walking in the fullness of your inheritance as a child of God.

Scripture References

Activated Faith

Hebrews 6:1 NKJV ...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God...

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Romans 4:20-21 NKJV He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Romans 4:20 ESV ...but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God...

Psalms 69:30 NKJV I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 116:7-8 NKJV Return to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For You have delivered my soul from death, My eyes from tears, And my feet from falling.

Romans 10:17 NKJV So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Acts 11:14 NKJV '...who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.'

2 Thessalonians 1:3 NKJV ...your faith grows exceedingly...

Hebrews 6:17-18 NKJV Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation...

Psalms 89:34 NKJV My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

Psalms 138:2 NKJV For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Mark 13:31 NKJV Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.


Genesis 3:1-4 NKJV And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Jeremiah 1:12 ESV "... for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Luke 1:37 ASV For no word from God shall be void of power.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen...

2 Peter 1:2-4 NKJV Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Numbers 13:27-33 NKJV Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Numbers 14:1-4 NKJV So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

Numbers 14:28-29 NKJV Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

2 Corinthians 4:13 NKJV And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak...

Joshua 14:7-14 NKJV I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever...And now, behold, the Lord has kept me

alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day...

1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith..