

Book of Hebrews Part 13: 6:1-2; 11:1; Faith, Logic, Reason, Truth; King Asa (12/1/ 2018)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKzI5CiRWdE> or <https://rumble.com/embed/vbb8kd/?pub=4>.

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Last lesson, as we came to the end of Hebrews chapter 5, we noticed how the writer of this book, writing to a particular group of Jewish people, identified a significant problem. That problem was their faith was not growing. The writer of Hebrews was bringing to their attention that by now they should have reached the point of spiritual maturity where they would be teaching others. Instead, they needed someone to teach them.

So what is wrong with sipping on milk consistently? To answer that, the writer tells us we will become unskilled in the word of righteousness. That is not where the church is supposed to be. Faith is growing closer and closer to the LORD; it is pursuing Him.

On the heels of that, we're going to break into Hebrews 6:1 where the writer follows up with this—**Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection** (emphasis added). That seems very different than what you might have expected especially considering he just told them they had come to need milk again and not solid food. One would think he would have told them, "OK, here we go. I'm just going to go back to the refrigerator, and I'm going to pull out the milk again. We are going to go through this again." However, the writer does not do that. Take note of what he says instead—**let us go on to perfection**. He basically tells them, "We are leaving the discussion of the elementary principles; we're moving past milk now." That is critically important. They need to move on to perfection. What he is basically saying is, "It is time to grow up, and I'm going to help you with that. We need to press in on this, and it is vital."

It would do well for many pastors who are out there, behind the pulpit today, to heed the wisdom we're looking at right here. I say this from experience of personally talking to several pastors from all different denominations and how they say, "Well, you know Dan, you can't really talk about the Torah or the deeper things of the word of God because the people can't handle it. They are not equipped to deal with the Torah; I'll just be talking over their heads." To that I say, "Nonsense."

We need to take heed to the wisdom this writer is conveying. It is time to push forward and grow up. We need this. Amen?

Continuing on in Hebrews 6:1-2—**not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and**

of eternal judgment (emphasis added). These things are the elementary principles of Christ. These things are what the writer calls the milk.

As you look at these things, you can see it's very important you understand the milk is a little bit more comprehensive than just saying it pertains to all of these things. This is an amazing moment for us because we are able to know what the term milk means to the writer. These six things define his use of the term milk. Again, they are repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Because of what we're confronted with here, we're going to go through each and every one of these individually. We are going to do this for multiple reasons. First, before you do anything in the faith, you need to have the milk of the word. When the writer is talking about laying on hands, what does that mean? We've got to go through this not only just for your sake, but this is what you're supposed to be bringing baby believers, people who are new to the faith. You need to be able to go through the elementary principles and discuss these things with them in order to nurture them so they can spiritually develop their brain and immune systems and therefore they will grow.

Lastly there's something about this that is frightening. As we begin to go through these one by one, you're going to see something. What you're going to see is things are worse than you ever imagined in the church. It is one thing to talk about what we talked about last week regarding entire church buildings filled with believers who are only drinking the milk of the word. We can look at that and say this is not how it's supposed to be. This is dangerous, and we would be right. However, it's worse because as we go through the milk of the word, what you're going to see as you peer out into these modern-day churches are churches that have polluted the milk. We have other churches that are diluting the milk. We don't even have the milk of the word today. What kind of generation are we living in? This is scary! I'm not even talking about the meat; we're just talking about the milk.

Because of this, we're going to go through every one of these one by one, and we're going to start with what I feel is the most obvious one. We are going to start with faith.

What is this faith? We are going to talk about things about faith that every believer should know. This is going to be a little different presentation today, at least in my mind. We are going to start with very basic, very simplistic, stuff we need to understand and need to be able to convey to others. Then we're going to get into the deep end in regard to faith, and it's going to be awesome. I am really excited about today's message in what it means for us.

With that said, I want to begin with the definition. How do we define faith? Ironically enough, we don't have to because the writer of Hebrews defines it for us. If we jump ahead to Hebrews 11:1, this is what we read—**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen** (emphasis added).

The Greek word for substance is ὑπόστασις, which means assurance or confidence. What does the writer mean when he says—**things hoped for**? Open your Bibles and take a look at all of the promises of God that He made to the children of Abraham. Yeshua told the believers He was coming back for them. That is a promise. The fact that we are living in a state of mortality, yet we're told we are going to put on immortality. The fact we're told, anxiety, fears, depression, sorrow, pain, hatred, strife, war, violence, murder, and death will all come to an end, and the LORD is going to wipe away every tear from

our eyes. We are going to experience a joy we couldn't even imagine by getting to spend an eternity with Him. This is what the writer is referring to when he says—**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for**. Faith is the assurance of the promises of God, but the evidence of things not seen.

In other words, despite all these things, we believe that everlasting life is coming, and Yeshua is coming on the clouds of heaven. He's going to save us, and He's going to strike our enemies. That is what we believe. However, everything we see right now tells us the opposite because we're inundated with death, sorrow, depression, hatred, war, and with violence. These are all things of the flesh. We see the power of Satan reigning on this earth, but let me tell you what faith says. Faith says, "Your day is coming. The devil's day is coming. Yeshua is going to destroy him. Yeshua restores Jerusalem and will defend His people Israel. That day is coming. That is what faith is. Faith is the substance of these things hoped for despite what we see.

I want to move on in conjunction with this statement and take you to John chapter 20 where we find the interaction between doubting Thomas and Yeshua. After the resurrection, Yeshua presented Himself to His Apostles, and every one of them saw Yeshua except Thomas because he was not there at that moment. Thomas comes in afterward, and the Apostles tell him, "We have seen the LORD; He is resurrected." Thomas' response is, "I will not believe unless I put my finger in the nail prints in His hands and the spear mark in His side." Yeshua later appears to Thomas and shows Thomas what he wanted. Thomas got to see the resurrected LORD, and then he responds—**Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου**—, which translates to—The LORD of me and the God of me. Now Thomas believed.

Yeshua responded to Thomas—**Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed** (emphasis added, John 20:29). These are the blessed ones, and you want to pay attention to the term blessed because the way Yeshua uses it is explicitly in a particular context referring to the elect or redeemed; those we call the saved. You can go to the Beatitudes and see this is very clear when Yeshua said—**Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven** (Matthew 5:3). **Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God** (Matthew 5:8). Again in Matthew 5:9— **Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God**.

When you see Yeshua used the term blessed, He is talking about the redeemed. So in the John 20:29 verse, when He says—blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed—He is talking about the redeemed, the men of faith.

Now to an unbelieving world, the concept of faith is simply unbelievable. They are too intellectual for that. They use what they call reason and logic. They deal with empirical evidence; they have to observe it for it to really exist. Something must be observed; then they will believe it. You can talk to them about this great Creator of heaven and earth who made everything. Their response is they want to see Him. They will say things like, "Where is He? You Christians keep talking about Yeshua and how we need Him for salvation. You Christians have been telling us for almost 2000 years that He is coming back soon. So, where is He?" They are not going to believe unless they see. That is how they operate.

The Apostle Paul has some insight into this that I want to share with you. In 1 Corinthians 1:18, this is what we read—**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**. There is something we need to understand. The things we're up against today with the unbelieving world including atheists and agnostics, is not something new. These things existed in Paul's day. There were naysayers, the moochers, and the scoffers, and Paul dealt with them in that time. He tells us— For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the

power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18). He goes on in 1 Corinthians 1:19-21— *For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”*²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, **it pleased God** (emphasis added). To do it this specific way by saying—**blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe** (John 20:29)—is what pleases God.

Continuing in 1 Corinthians 1:21—**it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe**. This is not something reserved for the intellectual who have achieved such spheres of academics that they are completely adored by the masses. Instead, faith is not the pursuit of man for the glory of man. You will never find faith in that. The things that are highly esteemed among men are an abomination to God.

So what does God do? He flips the tables; He makes it simple—**it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe** (1 Corinthians 1:21). It simply comes down to faith. That's when it gets so simplistic. Whether rich or poor, free or slave, Jew or gentile, or male or female, every single one of us have an opportunity to be saved, but there's a hitch. We have to believe. Though we have not seen, we must believe.

Moving on to 1 Corinthians 1:22-24—**For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;**²³ **but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,**²⁴ **but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** We can see it was the same in Yeshua's day. The Jews demanded a sign. Yeshua told them no sign would be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah. He wouldn't give them a sign. Today, the Greeks are still seeking after wisdom. Yet the power of God and the wisdom of God are to us who believe.

I want you to understand something. The world looks at believers as totally insane. They see your faith as simply a crutch for your weak mind. You need this crutch because you can't deal with the reality you're living in; therefore, you create a fantasy world that you want to go live in. However, we as believers in Yeshua are not jumping into an abyss of absurdity. That makes me think of the term, I believe it because it is absurd.

That, however, is not Christianity. That is not faith. That is not Messianic Judaism, and it is not faith. Let me be clear; faith does not abandon reason and logic. Instead, it embraces them. Do you realize faith is codependent on truth? It is the truth we cling to. Yeshua said—I am way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). You have an opportunity; you either believe it, or you don't believe it.

So for believers, we found the truth. We have bought it, and we are not going to sell it. This is not a crutch; this is not for the weak minded. No! We found the truth; and faith is codependent on truth.

Let me take you back to Hebrews 11 to look at another statement the writer makes. Hebrews 11:6—**But without faith it is impossible to please Him**. Now the writer uses the same terminology of “pleasing Him” Paul just used in 1 Corinthians 1:21. You need to understand this refers to those who are saved; this is salvation. In other words, without faith it's impossible to be saved. Could the writer put any more emphasis on this elementary principle? I say, “No way; it is impossible.” All the emphasis he could possibly employ has been put on it. Without faith we cannot be saved.

He goes on—for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). That's kind of a duh moment. Nobody is going to go to Yeshua unless they believe that He is. They must first believe He rose from the dead; then they will go to Him. This is obvious.

However, one thing I do want you to take away from this is understanding faith is the binding agent that binds us to God, binds us in relationship with Him, and binds us in covenant with Him. But it all comes down to faith, and it is not just faith in anything. It is faith in the Messiah Yeshua. The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:11—**For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

That's interesting! We are talking about the milk of the word. This is the first thing that needs to be understood. This is the foundation; it is our faith in Him.

I want to take this discussion to a whole other level, and I want to talk about the fact that there are dimensions to the faith, this elementary principle of faith, are so valuable and intense I promise you they will change your life. It will change the way you walk, the way you talk, the way you respond to situations, and the way you impact other people's lives. There are things we are going to talk about today that even if you have been a believer 15, 20, or even 30 years, you may have your senses awakened in a way you have never had them awakened before. This has nothing to do with me; this comes directly out of the word of God, but it is so powerful.

I'm going to discuss one of the most powerful passages that has impacted my life as a believer in Yeshua. I have found that out of the entire Bible, this is one of the most powerful passages; it has dramatically changed my whole view on faith.

With that said, I want to take you to Luke 17:5 where we are going to see something amazing. The Apostles are going to petition Yeshua, they have a request from Him, and all it is in three little words with a wealth of information and knowledge behind them. So I am asking you to pay close attention as we read verse 5—**And the Apostles said to the LORD, "Increase our faith"** (emphasis added).

Do you really want to appreciate the statement? If you do, take it back to its historical context. We are dealing with the Apostles who are a part of the greatest ministry the world has ever seen. The prophets could only dream about what the Apostles were part of. They had desired to see and hear the things these Apostles experienced. These Apostles were in the innermost sanctum of the ministering. They were literally walking with Yeshua, healing people, and He was literally using His own words to teach them.

You can see more of this when you go back to Luke 10. The Apostles were in total astonishment. They went to Yeshua and exclaimed that even the demons were subject to them in His name. So they are going out healing and casting out demons, and you are telling me they are going to Yeshua asking Him to increase their faith? I never read about a prophet saying that. What is going on in this verse when the Apostles ask for their faith to be increased?

This verse is baiting you. This statement is supposed to draw you in. There is something deeper being conveyed that we need to draw from this statement—**increase our faith.** Why would they say that?

To answer that question, I want to take you to Mark chapter nine. In that chapter, there is a man whose son is being plagued by a demon. The man is desperate, he praying, and he brings his son to the Apostles, but they can't help him. They try to cast out the demon; the demon does not come out. So he goes to Yeshua and says—**if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us** (Mark 9:22). Do you know how Yeshua responds? Yeshua tells the man— **If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes** (Mark 9:23).

Now I want you to think about this situation. Let me unfold another aspect to it. When this man brought his son to the Apostles and they could not cast out the demon, Yeshua responded by saying—**O faithless generation** (Mark 9:19). Then the man tells Yeshua—**if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us** (Mark 9:22). Then Yeshua responded—**If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes** (Mark 9:23). Yeshua put it back on the man by saying, “Do you believe?”

Do you know how the man responded? He said—**LORD, I believe; help my unbelief!** (Mark 9:24). In other words, the man just said what we find the Apostles saying in Luke 17:5—**increase our faith**. That is what the man was crying out. That is what the Apostles are crying out. Why do the Apostles want more faith? If you look at the passages in Mark 9, what you realize is faith is literally power.

If you want to change your life; if you feel you are complacent in your faith; let me tell you something. You don't know what faith is. Faith is power. This is life changing. When you understand this concept, you're going to put faith on a pedestal you never had it on before. If you think faith is simply believing in Yeshua, and at some point in the future He's going to come and take you into heaven, that is not all faith is. Faith is more than that. Faith has an effect, a direct impact, on your life right here and now.

So when these disciples are going out and saying—**increase our faith**—what do they want? They want power. They are asking to be given power. Why are they asking for more power? Because they are on the front lines. They're in the most hellish war that the universe has ever seen. They do not wrestle against flesh and blood; they wrestle against principalities, powers, and demonic host of wickedness. They had come up against a demon that was stronger than the faith they had.

Think about that. This demon was stronger than the faith they had. They didn't have the power. We need the power; we need our faith increased. You need to yearn and hunger for this kind of faith; otherwise, you're going to be picked apart and ripped to shreds from what is coming to this earth as we enter into this tribulation; as we enter into the birth pains of the Messiah. As the enemy comes in to impress his fear and intimidation upon you, if you are walking without power, you're as good as dead. We need power!

So how does the LORD increase their faith? Is His response, “No. I'm sorry guys. I've given you what you have and there's no more to be given. You're faith is limited; you are only supposed to go to this level”? No. That is not what He says. What He actually says is—**So the LORD said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.** (Luke 17:6).

Here is a picture of a mustard seed. It is tiny. If this guy drops it, you'd be lucky to find it. Do you understand Yeshua just took an illustration that no man would even conceive? This draws us to Ephesians 3:20—**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly**



abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. Do you understand who you serve? Do you understand who Yeshua is and the authority and power He possesses.

So he is talking about something that is so out of the stratosphere, beyond what we could imagine possible. He is telling us if we simply speak to a tree, it would pull itself up and plant itself in the sea. What Yeshua is telling the disciples is they are not to limit faith, "Do not limit My power in any way. If you can conceive, it can be done." **All things are possible to him who believes** (Mark 9:23).

Do you know what the problem is? We don't have this kind of faith. We don't want to admit it, but we don't. What we need to do is we need to pray to increase our faith. This needs to be a prayer. I desperately cry for that. I'm not too proud to admit that. The one thing I know I need in this age, in this life, and in ministry, is power, and that is total faith.

I want to get more practical because if we want to pray to increase our faith, if we want to have this power, there's a way to do it. The Apostle Paul tells us—**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God** (Romans 10:17). In other words, our faith happens because of our interaction to the word of God. This can happen through a pastor, teacher, a teaching you're seeing or listening on the radio. It could happen with a friend speaking life into you by speaking the word into you or praying the word over you. It can happen with you sitting down and reading the word of God and clothing yourself in it. When you do this and allow the Holy Spirit to speak, what happens? We increase in power. So if there is any motivation for you to dig into the word of God and to start clothing yourself with the righteousness of God, this is it. We do so because we want the power.

I want to show you how this works in real life. There is a biblical story that is so powerful regarding this topic. It's the story of Asa in 2 Chronicles 14:1-2—**1 So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years. 2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.** Asa would be the great grandson of Solomon.

Now it's imperative that you track with me. I have to go through a lot of the story, and every bit of this is imperative for you to really feel the weight of the punch line I want to get to. He was righteous; he did what was good in the LORD's site.

Moving on to 2 Chronicles 14:3-4—**3 for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images. 4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the Law and the commandment** (emphasis added). Asa brought revival to the land. How awesome is this guy? Everyone was commanded to seek the LORD. If you jump ahead to the next chapter, you read if you did not do this, it would be punishable by death. Asa was restoring the kingdom.

Moving on to 2 Chronicles 14:5-7—**5 He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him. 6 And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest. 7 Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, [He's getting strong, and the kingdom is getting stronger. He is able to build it up] because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every**

side." **So they built and prospered.** Why was he given rest and peace? Because he sought the Living God.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 14:8-9—⁸ **And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.** ⁹ Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of **a million men** and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah (emphasis added).

This is crazy because in the flesh everything your eyes will tell you is this is going to be a slaughter. Asa does not have a chance. The enemy, HaSatan, has amassed an army of a million men; he is coming in for the kill, and Asa is feeling it.

How does Asa respond? The key is in Chronicles 14:10-11—¹⁰ **So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.** ¹¹ **And Asa cried out to the LORD his God** (emphasis added). He is going to the LORD in prayer. Look at this prayer—**LORD, it is nothing for You to help.** Think about that statement— **it is nothing for You to help.** Does Asa's faith seem as if it has limits? No. There are no limits. He has put no limitations on his God. He has completely removed all limitations. This whole situation where the enemy has amassed a great army against Asa is nothing to Asa.

You see, this is a prayer of faith; it's a prayer of power. Continuing in 2 Chronicles 14:11—**LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power.** This is amazing! Asa is humbling and saying, "We can't do this. We know we cannot do that." If you continue on in Chronicles, you will find Asa's son had a similar prayer.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 14:11—**Help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You** (emphasis added). They trust. They have total faith and therefore total power. **And in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"** So here you have a prayer literally birthed from faith. This is total, complete power.

So how did this all turn out? Remember that Asa leads this revival; he brings people back to the LORD. When he is confronted with assured destruction, he doesn't waver. He goes to the LORD in prayer and confesses the LORD is able to save. Nothing is too hard for Him.

For the answer, we continue in 2 Chronicles 14:12—**So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.** Asa had total victory in this life. His faith made a difference.

However, we are not done as Asa's story goes on. What I want to do is take you to 2 Chronicles 16 and show you something really terrifying. 2 Chronicle 16:1—**In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa.** Think about that. That does not mean he was 36 years old. It means he had reigned as king for 36 years. He had been walking with the LORD a long time. Most of us have not even been believers for 36 years. Asa, however, has walked with the LORD for a long time. It is imperative you understand this.

Back to 2 Chronicles 16:1—**In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.** This is

interesting because the first king of Israel, Jeroboam, he did the same thing. He prevented people from going up to Jerusalem to worship the LORD.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 16:2—² Then Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, ³ "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. Here, I have sent you silver and gold; come, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

So again Asa has been confronted with the possibility of war. His enemy has shown himself. How does he respond? Very differently than how we saw him respond with the 1,000,000 men coming from Ethiopia. Asa goes and plunders the Temple, and he calls upon a foreigner, a man of flesh, to save him because this Ben-Hadad king of Syria is an associate of Baasha king of Israel. Asa asks Ben-Hadad king of Syria to break the treaty he has with Baasha.

This gets really interesting as we continue in 2 Chronicles 16:4-5—⁴ So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. They attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali. ⁵ Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah and ceased his work.

Now hold on a second. How Asa dealt with this worked. The plan he conceived to deal with Baasha worked. How often do we get in situations where we decide we have to take care of it? We decide to figure this out instead of going to God in prayer first. We don't call on God to help us.

Now, if you're honest with yourself, you will admit you are not reliant on God. We claim we are, but our lives don't testify to it. Somebody who is relying on God is asking His counsel regarding everything. They are going to prayer for everything of any significance.

So Asa figured out how to defeat Baasha. Asa went to the Temple and plundered it; he paid Ben-Hadad king of Syria to break the treaty with Baasha, and guess what? Problem solved. Or not. 2 Chronicles 16:6-7—⁶ Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them he built Geba and Mizpah. ⁷ And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "**Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand** (emphasis added).

In other words, there will be hell to pay. Look at Jeremiah 17:5-8—⁵ Cursed *is* the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. ⁶ For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land *which is* not inhabited. ⁷ Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

This verse describes the faithful of the LORD, and here you have this amazing history of how Asa, who was this awesome man of God, when confronted in war put his trust in man. Now he is going to reap what he sows. There will be hell to pay.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 16:8—**Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand** (emphasis added). This was Hanani, the seer, talking to Asa. He is telling Asa, “Don’t you remember the armies and how you dealt with that situation? Do you remember how it ended? It was perfect; it was flawless; there was peace. This time you did not handle it like that.”

We’re going to read this next passage which is literally one of the most influential passages of my life. It is so powerful when you recognize this. It is life changing. This is what we read in 2 Chronicles 16:9—**For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him** (emphasis added).

This is a game changer. Do you understand the LORD God is searching; He is looking to and fro for those who have faith because He wants to pour out His power. He wants to be glorified in those people. That verse completely changed my whole perspective on faith, and it changed my perspective on the LORD. We get into environments where there's no power, no healing, no radical change, or deliverance. The one thing I know is Scripture tells me God wants desperately to do these things, but is He finding men of faith?

That is what is scary. When you look at this in the reality of God's now moving, it's on you and it is on me. If God is truly not moving in your life, and I mean in power, it is on you because He is desperately seeking those people because He wants to show Himself strong. He is looking for any opportunity He can to do this. Asa gave Him that opportunity at the beginning, and then he abandoned God. God is not going to show Himself strong when Asa did what he did the next time. The measure of the power you have is your faith. Your faith is the measurement of that power. This is a game changer; this is radical!

True, faithful believers in the Messiah Yeshua are radical, and as a result, God does great exploits. I venture to guess if I were to ask you, “Would you like to do great exploits for the Kingdom of God,” all if not most of you would raise your hands and say, “Yes, I would like to be a part of that. I want to do great exploits.” If you do, you better start praying to increase your faith because God is only going to show Himself strong to those who are loyal to him. Period! That is a powerful passage. It is humbling. Talk about checking your faith.

Now Hanani the seer is not done with Asa. He goes on and says—**In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.** In other words, you will have hell. You have done foolishly. You trusted in man; you made flesh your strength; now you will reap it. Now he reaped wars.

I'm going to tell you something; there will always be people like Baasha in your life. These are the enemies that rise up to tear you down and destroy you. It could be disease or cancer; whatever the case may be. It could be financial. You're going to be put in situations where your faith is going to be tested to see how much power you have. God is desperate; He wants to show His strength in those who are loyal. We are always going to have Ben-Hadads in our lives where we will think our way out of it. We will figure out a way of our own.

I love this thing that is going on. You have people in the world who are building storage bunkers in the ground because they are worried about nuclear war. They are taking all the precautions; they're thinking their way out of what is coming. They are going to store up food to last for years to come, and they are going to store water. They are going to have all the provisions all set up. I'm telling you right

now; if you trust in your own works, if you trust in BenHadad and have this mindset you are going to work yourself through it and not trust in the living God, you shall have wars. You will have hell to pay. This is a fact. We are very deceived people. We are a deceived generation. We claim to be men of faith, and we are not. It is frightening!

I want to end on one of my favorite stories in the Bible. I try to make it a point to speak about it at least a couple times a year, and there's definitely an opportunity to do it now. In Matthew 8:5, it says—⁵ **Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him** [A centurion is a Gentile; he is not a Jew], **pleading with Him,** ⁶ **saying, "LORD, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."** ⁷ **And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."**

What you need to understand about this passage, and this is critical, there is a backdrop to this story about the centurion. We know this because the same story is recorded in Luke 7. Luke, however, records something very vital. This centurion loved Israel. This centurion built the Jews in Capernaum a synagogue. This centurion had a fear of the God of Israel. He loved the LORD God of Israel, and he loved His people. It is very important to know this backdrop.

So the LORD is willing; He wants to come and heal the centurion's servant. Continuing in Matthew 8:8—**The centurion answered and said, "LORD, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof.** This is humility. Think about the verse in 2 Chronicles 7:14—**if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves.**

The first thing that is said by this centurion in response to Yeshua shows his humility—**LORD, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof** (Matthew 8:8). This is a guy who knows the holiness of Yeshua, and he is terrified of that; however, the centurion also knows Yeshua's power because he goes on and says in Matthew 8:8—**But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.** In other words, "Yeshua, You don't need to get up and come over to my house. You don't need to do anything other than simply speak the word."

The centurion continues in Matthew 8:9—⁹ **For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."**

The centurion is looking at Yeshua and basically saying, "I understand authority. I'm looking at the ultimate figure of authority. Just give a command and it's done. How much more you, Yeshua?" What do you call that? You call that power.

Now Yeshua responds in Matthew 8:10—**When Jesus heard it, He marveled.** I challenge you to go through the Scriptures and see how many people make the LORD marvel. You are not going to find anyone making the God who created heaven and earth marvel. However, there is one thing that makes Him marvel, faith.

Do you want to change your perspective and be that centurion? Yes. I want to be that guy who carries out great exploits for the LORD. I want to be that guy who has the same kind of faith this centurion had that I can make Yeshua marvel. I want to do that; do you? If so, we want to increase our faith. That adds a whole other dimension to the faith.

Continuing in Matthew 8:10—[Yeshua] **said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** This is why Yeshua is blown away. It is because of this kind of faith.

We continue— ¹¹ **And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and **as you have believed, so let it be done for you.**" And his servant was healed that same hour. (emphasis added, Matthew 8:11-12).**

So according to Yeshua's own words, the healing happened because of this centurions' faith— **as you have believed, so let it be done for you.** I love what Yeshua says to the blind man in Matthew 9:29— **According to your faith let it be to you.**

Now I want you to think about this. We can be in a place the LORD does not will you to be. However, there can be horrible circumstances the LORD wills. Joseph is an example of that. He was in hell, but that was the will of the LORD. Yet there are times we get put in situations that are based solely upon the fact we do not have faith, and we are not gaining victories in our life over particular things that are absolutely the will of the LORD. Such an example would be the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. You are not gaining victory because you keep going back to the computer screen looking at porn; therefore, you do not have victory, faith, of power. There is not power in that. We need this power.

So we need this power. This is what we need— **According to your faith let it be to you** (Matthew 9:29). If you have no power, it will be according to your faith and you are as good is dead. The enemy will totally own you. He will control every facet of you.

I like what we read in Matthew 13:58—**Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.** This is talking about Yeshua when He was in His hometown.

Here, **Now He did not do many mighty works there,** is referring to His hometown. Remember what it says in Mark 6:4— **A prophet is not without honor except in his own country?** Amen? Why was Yeshua without honor? Because of their unbelief. If you want to inhibit the power of the Living God in your life, don't believe. Don't have authentic faith where you really trust in Him instead of trusting in your own hand to gain you the victory.

I'm going to tell you that is going to be the hardest things to learn. This is an elementary principle and to this day, the LORD is taking me to church and to school learning about these things in my life. There are aspects we are not trusting in the LORD. Instead, we are trusting in our own strength and efforts.

I can tell you when we began this ministry, what a disaster it was for me because that's what I was doing. I was trusting in my own abilities and my own strengths. It was just pure garbage. It is amazing the things we think we know and are, and the status we have in the faith. We are completely delusional.

I want to close with this verse from 1 John 5:4—**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith** (emphasis added). To gain victory, eternal life,

salvation, victory over the devil, victory over his henchman, over the demons, and victory over the unbelievers all comes down to faith. Do we have it?