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# FAITH... SIMPLY BELIEVE

*Now faith is the substance  
of things hoped for, the evidence of  
things not seen.*

*Hebrews 11:1*

## SESSION PURPOSE

In the first two sessions of our study, we laid the biblical foundation of truth regarding God's perfect will to heal, accomplished through Jesus' death and resurrection. God has finished His part in providing for the fullness of our salvation, once and for all! Today we begin to learn about our part in receiving ALL that has been purchased for us – which is to simply believe! We will look at Abraham's example, our father in faith. And we'll explore God's way to simply believe with child-like faith!

## Foundation One

Faith is our part in receiving the amazing grace gift of God, provided through Jesus' redemptive work on the cross. Let's begin our study of Bible faith by looking at God's definition.

### Read Hebrews 11:1.

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

What is the deeper meaning of the following words?

1. Faith –
2. Substance –
3. Hope –

Faith is the fruit of an encounter with God – the Faith-Full One! As you encounter Him, you will come to know His love, His character, His faithfulness, and His desire for you. Your faith will rise up and you will be able to say, "I am expecting something good, because I am persuaded of something true!" We will delve deep into just how we can encounter God in Session 6, "Seek the Healer".

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

4. Evidence –
5. Things not seen –

In this world, we tend to believe our senses. We believe what we see, what we hear, what we feel. It does not take faith to believe what is already clearly known through our senses! But God says that faith is believing what we do NOT yet see. Faith is believing God's promises with absolute conviction BEFORE we see the manifestation!

## Foundation Two

The Bible calls Abraham our father in faith. Let's look at the biblical account of Abraham to see how he stood in faith, and took action to walk by faith, not by sight.

### Read Hebrews 11:8-12.

1. How did Abraham act in faith?
2. Did he understand God's plan and how it would be accomplished?
3. What did Sarah think of God's promise?
4. What was the result of their faith?

### Read Romans 4:18-21.

5. What did Abraham do when then the situation was utterly hopeless?
6. Did Abraham and Sarah have reason to doubt God's promise?
7. How was his faith strengthened?
8. Why did he NOT doubt God?

Is your situation utterly hopeless according to the doctor? Does the resolution of your problem appear to be completely out of the realm of possibility? I encourage you to stand firm in faith and say, “No unbelief or distrust will make me waver concerning the promise of God, but I will grow strong and be empowered by faith as I give praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God is able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He has promised!”

### **Foundation Three** **Child-like Faith**

Where are you right now in your faith journey?

- Are you at the very beginning; just learning about God’s will to heal and His good plan for you?
- Are you researching all of your options ... natural, medical, and spiritual?
- Are you a “giant” of faith? Do you have a strong heart and head knowledge of the character and perfect will of God?
- Or are you somewhere in the midst of one of these entry points?

No matter where your entry point into this phase of your faith journey, Jesus tells us to become like a little child again!

**Read Matthew 18:1-4.** (The Message)

*At about that time, the disciples came to Jesus asking, “Who gets the highest rank in God’s kingdom?”*

*For an answer Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, “I’m telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you’re not going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God’s kingdom.”*

What are characteristics of childlikeness? What does it look like to be simple and elemental in our faith?



**Child-like faith includes humility.** Children innately know and desire to be under the authority of their parents, and they are submissive to that authority. Parents are in control! Children are absolutely dependent upon their parents.

One of the best ways to recognize God's truth is to contrast it with satan's deceptive lie. The enemy has certainly conned most of mankind into buying the massive lie that independence and being in complete control of your own life and future are powerful personal attributes. But ponder this ...

1. The opposite of being humble is being full of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The opposite of being in submission to God is being in \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.
3. The opposite of being dependent upon God is being \_\_\_\_\_.

The first step we take in nurturing humility is surrendering all to God by giving Him Lordship over every facet of our life! When we take this step of surrender, we are acknowledging our need for Him, becoming dependent on Him, and giving Him control over our lives. Surrender is the first step, and a continuing requirement of child-like faith.

Think of this analogy: A master carpenter has the ability to create a masterpiece with his hands and his tools. But if the carpenter's tools are in the workshop, not being used, they are totally useless. No work is being completed. Likewise, in order for God to create a masterpiece with our lives, we need to put our lives in His hands. We need to surrender ourselves into His care.

**Read James 4:7, 10.**

4. First, \_\_\_\_\_ to God. THEN \_\_\_\_\_ the devil, and he will flee!

**Read 1 Peter 5:6-9.**

5. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to give up control, cast your cares on God, and simply trust Him!

Word of Caution! Have you heard yourself saying, "I already know this. I don't need to learn about God's promises of healing and the prayer of faith, because I already know all about it." If so, turn back to Abba and ask Him to open the eyes of your heart to His truth, to help you to become simple and elemental again, and to deepen your revelation of His Word and His good plan for you!

Self-Reflection: Take a minute to think about your life (your health, your relationships, your children, your career, your hobbies). Are you in control, or have you given Jesus Lordship over every area of your life? Are you dependent on God and His leading and guiding? Do you have pride in your achievements? Or have you acknowledged God as your source, and given Him the glory for blessing you with talent and ability to achieve your goals? Are you teachable?



**Child-like faith includes trust.** Children totally trust their parents to take care of them, to protect them, to help them, to meet all of their needs.

“Trust is the fruit of a relationship in which you know you are loved.”<sup>1</sup>

Children trust their parents because they have experienced their tender loving care, provision, and protection.

In the same way, the birthplace of trusting God is coming to know His love personally, through experience for yourself. The result of that trust is confidence, assurance, security, and dependence on God and His Word.

#### Read Proverbs 3:5.

6. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”?

Self-Reflection: Have you completely and continuously put your trust in the Lord for your healing? Or are you striving to research and reason your problems and decisions out all on your own? Do you feel a need to understand every detail of the illness you are fighting? Or have you given up your right to understand, and – with child-like faith – simply put your trust in God?



**Child-like faith includes simply believing.** Children believe every word their parents speak, without questioning. (That’s why Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy are so popular with many children!)

#### Read Luke 18:15-17. (The Message)

*People brought babies to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. When the disciples saw it, they shooed them off. Jesus called them back. “Let these children alone. Don’t get between them and me. These children are the kingdom’s pride and joy. Mark this: Unless you accept God’s kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you’ll never get in.”*

<sup>1</sup> William Paul Young, *The Shack*, (Los Angeles, CA: Windblown Media, 2007), 126.

God's Word is the pure foundation of truth for His children. Where do you base your theology? Do you base it on your experience, (or what you see in the world), or do you base it on God's Word? Do you accept the truth of God's Word with the simplicity of a child? Intellectual understanding is different than spiritual knowing. Believing does not require absolute understanding.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

7. All scripture is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**Read Hebrews 4:12.**

8. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith begins where the will of God is known. The Word of God IS the will of God! Unless you believe with all your heart in God's completed work of healing, you will not be able to put your trust in Him to heal you!

Self-Reflection: God expects us to believe His Word, spoken to us through the Bible. Do you question the validity of the Bible? Do you believe the words of man over the Word of God? Remember Abraham, the father of faith. He was fully convinced that what God had promised He was also able to perform. Are you fully convinced?



**Child-like faith includes obedience.** Children obey their parents out of trust and respect. God expects us to obey His Word, out of a deep reverence for Him and a trust that He loves us and knows best what we need.

When children trust, believe and obey their parents, the result is almost always a good, successful, happy childhood. But when children haven't been able to trust or believe their parents they very often rebel, and the result is devastating to their lives!

**Read John 10:10. (NLT)**

*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

Yielding to the thief results in the thief's purpose coming to fruition.

Yielding to God results in God's purpose coming to fruition!

Self-Reflection: Faith in God accompanied by obedience to His voice (His Word) will move mountains, but they must go hand in hand. Are you yielding to the enemy's lies, or to God's truth? Listen to and obey God's direction for you, whatever that is.



**Child-like faith includes joy.** Children are carefree, and are filled with joy and anticipation of every wonderful event in their lives!

Think about the “anticipation factor” in children. What do they do the month, the week, the day before their birthday, or Christmas, or a trip to Disneyworld? They are bubbling over, CRAZY with joy and anticipation! And they drive their parents crazy too! God wants us to be just like that as we wait upon His promises!

This characteristic of child-like faith leads us right back to the beginning of this lesson.

### **Hebrews 11:1a**

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for ...*

Here's my translation of this scripture:

*I have confident and joyous expectation for God's best in my life (including healing), because I'm fully persuaded of His truth. I'm fully persuaded of His truth because I know Him – His faithfulness, His goodness, His amazing compassion, and His love!!!*

### **Philippians 4:4, 6-7 (The Message)**

*Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in Him!*

*Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.*

## KEEPING GOD'S WORD

*Receiving It, Loving It, Living It*

1. Identify your faith "entry point" in your healing journey.
  - Are you at the very beginning; just learning about God's will to heal and His good plan for you?
  - Are you researching all of your options ... natural, medical, and spiritual?
  - Are you a "giant" of faith? Do you have a strong heart and head knowledge of the character and perfect will of God?
  - Or are you somewhere in the midst of one of these entry points?
  
2. No matter where you enter, God's best for you is to be child-like, to go back to the beginning, to accept God's kingdom with the simplicity of a child. Take time this week to reflect on each of the attributes of child-like faith that we discussed in our study. Ask Father God to reveal His direction for you in each of these attributes. Write down your thoughts and revelations from God.
  - Humility -
  
  - Trust -
  
  - Belief -
  
  - Obedience -
  
  - Joy -

## IN PURSUIT OF MORE

### My Testimony of Child-like Faith

Shortly after I received my full manifestation of healing from stage-four melanoma, I asked Father God, "Show me what I did to receive my healing".

God's answer to me was so very clear. He dropped these words into my heart, "Cindy, you had child-like faith". I had no idea what child-like faith was! I didn't know what God's Word said about it. All I knew was that if I had received divine healing through my child-like faith, I wanted to learn more about it, and then share what I learned with others!



Like Abraham, there was no way in the "natural" for God's promise of healing to be fulfilled in my life.

Abraham was really old, and impotent. His wife was barren, and was long past her childbearing years. There was no way Abraham and Sarah could possibly have children, without divine intervention.

I had a stage-four melanoma diagnosis. It was considered incurable. My life prognosis was 6 to 9 months. According to the medical world, there was nothing I could do to not die within the year.

God gave Abraham a promise. He told Abraham he would be the father of many nations.

God gave me a promise. He said I would live and not die, and would declare the works of the Lord! (Psalm 118:17)

Abraham and Sarah said, "No unbelief or distrust will make me waver concerning the promise of God, but I will grow strong and be empowered by faith as I give praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God is able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He has promised!" (Romans 4:20-21)

And so did I. I chose to simply believe in my great big God, rather than the doctor's report of impending physical death. What did I have to lose?



This is what child-like faith looked like in me.

Within days after the stage-four diagnosis, I completely surrendered my health and the cancer situation to God. I had been an “in control” person all of my life, and had worked diligently to reach goals and achieve excellence in every facet of my life. For the first time ever, I simply released the problem to God, and let Him take over. I remember how freeing it was to let go of that immense burden, and give it over to the One who was able to take care of it for me! It was amazingly wonderful! Surrender was a beginning and a continuing action of faith during that season of my life (and still is!). At every turn, if the burden of sickness settled on me, I gave it over to Jesus my Healer once again!

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*



I immediately began to develop a relationship with Abba. My mentor told me to spend time with God every day – to read the Bible and to pray. So I did. I immediately began to experience His love for me through “God-incidences”, answered prayers, and rhema words poured into my heart as I read the Bible. I began to fall in love with my Father, which caught me completely off-guard. Here I was, in the midst of a battle for my life. I started out seeking healing, and discovered the amazing love of the Healer! I came to know His compassion, His promises, and His good plan for me. My love for God was consummated as I spent time in union and communion with Him. That was the birthplace of my trust in God – my child-like faith.



As I fed on healing promises from God’s Word, I chose to simply believe them. Believing that God had provided for my healing through Jesus was totally new to me. At that time, I didn’t have biblical knowledge of the Old Testament prophecies pointing to Jesus the Healer. I didn’t have biblical knowledge of Jesus fulfilling those prophecies. I didn’t have biblical knowledge of the finished work of the cross, and how the power of the cross was confirmed through the book of Acts as the church was birthed. I didn’t intellectually understand why healing was mine, but I chose to believe God at His Word anyway. Within one month, I began to see results in my body ... proven by medical tests. And that fueled the flame of my child-like faith that it was God’s will to heal me!



I was obedient. I was teachable.

My spiritual mentor told me to “take the medicine” of God’s healing promises daily. And I did, with all my heart.

She told me to spend time with God every day. I did, and I came to know my Healer personally.

God gave me nudges as I was reading His Word. I listened to Him. He said to ask for wisdom, and to ask in faith, knowing that He would give it to me liberally. (James 1:5) I asked Him. He gave me wisdom to ask the right questions when I got a seemingly bad PET scan report showing that the cancer was still active. God’s wisdom flowed through me and enabled me to discuss the scan in depth with the technician. As a result, I walked out of that medical consultation believing that the degree of cancer was reduced. Then God confirmed the good report with His Word, “Be confident of this Cindy, that the work I have begun in you I will bring through to completion!” (Philippians 1:6)

God convicted me of unforgiveness, and set me free from demonic bondage when I obediently let go of the offense I had been harboring. He poured His blessing upon my relationship with my sister, and restored it beyond my wildest dreams! (Ephesians 3:20)



God displaced worry and fear in my life, and it was wonderful! I lived through that season of my life with a sense of God’s peace settled upon me and giving me strength. (Philippians 4:6-7, 13)

I still do. He is beyond amazing. I live in a constant state of child-likeness, depending upon Him, trusting Him, believing Him, obeying Him – in a constant state of joyful anticipation of what He’s going to do next!



As we continue through this healing Bible study, we will come back to many of these areas of child-like faith, and will explore biblical truth to support each of them. You will grow in revelation and deepen your understanding of the fullness of God’s grace, His love for you, and His good plan for your life!