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## Faith 04

### Review:

- Faith – faith of the Son of God.
- Our faith (i.e. belief) – His faith (i.e. spiritual view of all things new in Christ)
- Draw diagram –the natural mind sees the left, the mind of Christ (faith) sees the right.

So I want to look a little bit deeper at what faith sees, but particularly how growing in faith, growing in that view, changes you.

Remember, we said that faith is a spiritual view of all things spiritual in Christ. Faith sees the new creation. Faith sees the new man. Faith sees all things finished in Christ. Faith is the view that your spirit, your heart has, of the reality in Christ.

Now you might have a piece of that view with relation to healing, or with relation to the Father's love. And you can walk in that reality to that extent. You can walk in what you've seen. But the entire picture is called the faith of the Son of God. The entire picture is what God knows, what God comprehends, what God sees. And that comprehension, that understanding is worked in your heart when you grow in faith.

And that which faith sees is what actually is. What faith sees is what is already true. And this is what I was trying to talk about a couple weeks ago, and I felt like maybe I lost a couple people. So let's talk a little bit about this, because we won't understand how change happens if we don't understand this.

You see, when you were born again you received the entire life of Christ. You didn't receive a piece of Him. You didn't get his arm, and then if you work hard enough you might get his leg. No, it's not like that. You received the entire life of God. You received a finished work. You received Jesus. The entire person. But now we're growing in the knowledge of that Person that we've received. Now we're growing in the view of what is now true because that Person is our life. Now, as the body of Christ, we are coming to share His mind. Now we're growing in faith.

Let me try to illustrate this a little bit more. I used this analogy a couple weeks ago on Friday night. But, we talk about growth like Jesus is a little tiny seed that you receive and He needs to increase in you. And that's ok to use metaphors like that. There are some biblical metaphors like that. It's ok to talk like that as long as you understand what is increasing.

What is increasing is not the amount of Jesus that you have. What is increasing is the experience and manifestation of the Jesus that you've already had in entirety. Yes there is an increased manifestation, but it's not because you're getting more and more of Him. There is an increased manifestation because your soul is being transformed to bear the image, the likeness of the one you've already had.

Its not because you just have a little baby Jesus growing up in you. Its because Jesus has a little baby Christian that doesn't yet know what is real. Its because Jesus has a baby Christian that is acting like a mere man. Its because Jesus has a Christian that still thinks he or she is supposed to live FOR Him, rather than be a branch of His life.

So, yes...you grow, and there is an increase. But it is not ever because you are getting something you didn't have. It's a little like this.

If you take a seed and throw it in the ground you're not going to get a plant overnight. But what you might get before long is a little tiny stem popping out of the ground. Now, even though this little stem is pretty tiny, it is, in effect a tree. Its just not grown. In fact, even before the seed grew, everything that will be manifested by that tree, the entire life of that tree, is all in that little seed. But it not yet manifest. It has not yet appeared as out from that Seed.

Now, keep in mind that Jesus is the incorruptible Seed. The very life of God given to you. And that Paul calls you the field – God's soil. And what the Father has done is caused you to become born again by partaking of that Seed.

And, pardon my bad biology...but in a sense, the Seed draws the nutrients from the soil and turns that soil into a greater expression of the Seed. Isn't that true? The seed puts down roots and starts sucking up the nutrients and compounds in the soil that will allow for a greater manifestation of that Seed.

But see, all of the life of the Seed is already in the ground. What is lacking? Well, there is a manifestation of the Seed lacking. The ground is still something quite separate than the Seed at first. The ground is still sitting there on its own. It hasn't yet become the increase of the Seed.

So the Seed takes the ground and transforms it into the expression of the Seed. And gardeners call that growth. Farmers call that harvest. There is no other growth except if everything that is in the Seed begins to become manifest in the earth.

What's my point? Well, right now my only point is that the entire life of the Seed was given to you the day you were born again. You never get more. But you are transformed into the image of that Seed. You are changed into the likeness of that Seed. You become the expression, the growth, the harvest, of that perfect and complete Seed. That is the deal. That is the gospel.

**But you're not getting more of something you don't have. You are being transformed into the image of what you do have.** You'll never have more of Jesus than you do right now. Not in a million years. But what you'll do is you'll grow in your view of what you do have. You'll grow in faith. (And that's what faith is – it's a view of what you have. A seeing of a finished work).

And so grow in your ability to abide in, walk in, live by, that which you do have. And that will bring forth a harvest. Therein will be the increase of that Seed. There will be an appearing in the earth of what was planted in that Seed.

So you might be wondering – if I have all of Jesus right now, where then is the lack? I know myself, and I know there is something wrong somewhere. IF its not about getting more of Him, what is it? Well, good question. Where is the lack?

The lack is in your heart. The lack is in your inner man, your soul. The lack is in your understanding, your emotions, your will. The lack isn't in your discipline and your determination – though these things can be helpful. But a bunch of discipline won't get more of Jesus. The lack is in your heart. The fact of the matter is that your heart, your soul, and therefore your feelings, actions, living, is not in line with reality. In fact, it is, in many ways, quite contrary to reality.

It is still like dirt that has yet to be transformed into the expression of the Seed. It has not yet learned to live as the expression or branch of that Seed. We're often still trying to figure out how to serve the Seed as one separate, rather than live in union with the Seed. The lack is in the true knowing of Him.

And I'm not just talking about semantics here. This isn't just a clever way of saying the same thing. I'm talking about this because if you are confused about this reality, then you can live an entire lifetime of zeal for God without an understanding of His purpose. As one person said last Friday, you can spend your life trying to bake God apple pie, when all he likes is cherry. Friends, I couldn't care less about semantics. I want to understand the eternal purpose of God and be found in that purpose. And that purpose is One – and it is a person.

You've heard me say things like this a lot, but as long as we're trying to figure out how to get our dirt to serve the Seed, rather than to become the expression of the Seed – God's still just trying to turn us around. We're backwards. We're without understanding. We have zeal without knowledge. And we run around telling people that we're doing this and that for God and God is doing this and that for us, but the reality is that He's still just trying to get us to understand the new covenant. He's still just trying to turn us around.

Ok...back to my point. Where is the lack? The lack is in your soul. Your soul is like dirt that is supposed to be transformed into an expression of the Seed. You are supposed to become a manifestation of His life. Just like my hand is an individual part of my body, but only expresses Jason life, and not hand life.

Well, how is a soul transformed into the image of Christ? How does it happen? **By growing in faith.** You grow in your view of all that is finished, all that is real, all that defines you. You don't make it true by seeing it. It was already true, but you can't walk in it, you can't abide in it, you can't experience it or express it until it is revealed to you and then you see it by faith.

You get a soul-transforming view, and you grow in that view. You grow in the faith of the Son of God. You grow in seeing things as they are. A spiritual view of spiritual reality that causes your mind, your emotions, and your will to line up with it.

- Romans 12:2 – you are transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- Ephesians 4:22 – you put off the old man, and by the renewing of the spirit of your mind, put on the new.
- Col 3:9 – by the renewing of your mind you begin to bear the image of the one that created you.
- 2 Cor 3:18 – you look into a clear reflection of yourself, a mirror, and you see Him, the one who is your life...and you are transformed into the same image from glory to glory.

- Col 3:3 – whenever Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you are revealed in union with Him.

And we've talked a lot about the renewing of the mind – but maybe you haven't seen that renewing the mind is growing in faith. Maybe you haven't seen that your minds are being renewed so that you share His view, his understanding, His comprehension, His faith. Our minds are being renewed so that we can live by the mind of Christ. So that we can live by the faith of the Son of God.

And, once again, what you are catching a view of, what you are growing in the knowledge of, is something that IS ALREADY TRUE. That's what I was trying to say two weeks ago when I was saying that "faith sees a finished work".

Please tolerate my repetition here, but its just been so hugely impacting to me to come to know that **everything I've ever dreamed of wanting is already finished and established in Christ where I have been seated, to whom I have been joined – and the only lack is in my comprehension, my understanding, my view, my faith. It only awaits my seeing. It is a salvation ready to be revealed.**

You'll have to excuse me if I get excited about this finished work – because at a variety of levels, I've always thought that I was supposed to finish it. But I am not to finish anything, only to see by faith what is already finished– and then enter into His rest by faith.

And yes, that can pertain to healing and gifting...but its far more than that. It is all that He has been made unto us. So it is love, it is rest, it is joy, it is salvation, it is glory.

But we need to wake up! Wake up, O sleeper, and Christ will shine on you. We're asleep in this Adamic slumber. We're hitting the snooze button and we're rubbing our eyes and peering out from under the covers and seeing a finished work. A work where you have already been crucified with Christ. A work where its no longer you that lives, but you've become a vessel of His life. A work where now, you walk by His clear view of all things new in Christ, all things finished in Christ.

Well, that's Galatians 1:15 and 2:20 "I began to wake up...and that waking up was Christ revealed in me...and I saw that I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God."

How do you live it? Well that's my point! You don't have to even ask "how" because the more you see, the more you see its already done, and you just rest in it. Its not your how. Its actually an escape from your how. Its not what you do, its freedom from all that you could never do. Its not your life – you've been crucified, and He is your life.

That's what I'm trying to say. We're always asking how. And the how has been finished for 2000 years and the entire new testament is trying to convince you to enter into His rest. To rest in his finished "how". The how is over...and you can't add to it, just jump in it. It's a Person, and He's your life. We're always asking how, but the Lord looks at us and says for Pete's sake, son, if you had anything to do with the how you'd be in trouble. I'm the how, now abide in me".

Look, I know that rubs your carnal mind the wrong way. It does me too. But the sooner we realize that the carnal mind is enmity with God, the better.

Now for the remainder of our time, let me just say a few words about how we are transformed. And I'm going to try to get really practical because I know that this is a place where a lot of us get stuck. I've been stuck here – and I tend to gravitate towards this trap.

Lets review the division that the cross makes. (Review Diagram)

Now before I say how we are transformed, lets remember that transformation is not getting something you don't have. Transformation, growth, is your soul experiencing and expressing what you do have. Change happens, transformation happens, growth happens as you discover what is finished and established about yourself because of the cross. And as you discover what is dead because of the cross.

**It's a discovery of a finished work.** And when you see that which is true and finished and established, your heart and your mind and your will naturally line up with it. And when you discover what is old and dead and put away, you naturally shed it like a snake shedding its skin. You just pass right out of it because its dead and not part of you any more.

So there is an entirely finished work because of the cross. And you experience change as that finished work is revealed in you. You're not getting something you didn't have. And you're not making something true that wasn't already true. You are beholding what is finished and you're beholding what is dead...and your soul is being saved from that death.

You're fixing the eyes of your heart on Him in order to find yourself – because He is your life. Your setting the gaze of your heart on the reality of being in Christ – and you are being more and more defined by what is revealed. You are being defined by what faith sees.

Hebrews 12:2 – we are "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith". Do you see what that is saying? We are fixing our eyes on the one who began our view and will perfect our view. We are fixing our eyes on the definition of reality...and our faith is being perfected. We are having the mind of Christ worked in us. He authored that faith. He began it. He is perfecting that faith.

But...AND HERE IS THE KEY...we are not looking to ourselves to find the appearing of Him. We are looking to Him to find the appearing of ourselves. What do I mean by that?

I mean, and this is so practical...we are not looking at all of the things that we hate about ourselves and waiting for Jesus one day to come and change them. Friends, it doesn't happen that way. Our eyes are completely fixed on ourselves and that will be all that we see and experience.

You know, we do things like this: you hate your brother or your spouse or something. . Every time you think about him you just can't stand him. And you know its wrong...you know that since you're a Christian you should love him, but you just can't. He's this and that, and its so irritating. And he did this. And well, if ever

that is going to change Jesus will just have to come down here and fix it. But in the meantime, I hate him. I'm just going to sit here and keep hating him because that's all that I can do.

Well, I'll agree with you that Jesus is the only one that can change that situation. But you've got your eyes totally fixed on yourself. You've got your gaze locked onto the old man and wondering one day if the new man will just appear. You got a long wait ahead of you.

But what you'll find is this – that ONLY as you fix your gaze on Jesus. Only as you look to Him that defines you. Only as you set your gaze to know Him as the author and perfecter of your view of reality. Only then does your view begin to change.

It doesn't change by noticing all of the bad junk and hoping that it will change. That hatred or fear or whatever doesn't have a place in Christ – and as you see who He is and that you are found in Him, you'll find those things shedding off of you quite naturally. They are crowded out quite naturally, because there is simply no room for them in the new.

You start to change, you start to grow, you begin to be transformed. Not the improvement of the old. But the replacement of it with the new. Yes, your emotions don't love your spouse. But there is one who is in you, One who is your life, that adores your spouse. And you'll begin to live by that love. You'll begin to abide in that love.

Yes, I know nothing has changed in your experience to cause you to stop fearing, but there is a life that is in you wherein there is no fear at all. And you just fix your gaze on Him, and you find there is no place for fear.