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INTRODUCTION

FAITH FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

Faith and fate are the two things that control peoples' destinies. Faith draws power and strength from God as the source to face impossibility with hope and assurance whereas fate is left on presumptions and man's wisdom. It deals with bad things that will or have happened to somebody. Fate leads to disillusionment whereas faith encourages and strengthened.

God accepts each of us by faith even that of a child and not the work of righteousness (Ephesians 2:8). Human righteousness is filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6). No one can attain perfection or be accepted by God on the bases of work. Faith is the bases and anchor by which the elders obtained a good report.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became the heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not received the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were looking for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not a shame to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when his end was near,

spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. By faith Moses' parent hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By Faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect (Hebrews 11:1-40NIV).

We need faith in practical terms today more than ever. Real faith is moving against impossibility. There is a saving faith and faith as a gift. Faith can bring about instantaneous miracle or gradual depending on God and the level of trust or believe. Faith does not rest on years of experience but on openness, trust and reliance on God and His word and God's purpose for bringing such miracle at that particular time. Faith is God's prerequisite or requirement for all His Children who want to please Him. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. So let's speak faith, think faith, live faith and exercise faith. It brings honour to God. Faith makes one acts and sees the way God does. A man of faith is able to succeed anywhere in life. He seeks for the mountain like Caleb (Joshua 14 :12).

Faith may imply: suffering, blessing, endurance and even death for it to materialized and fulfilled. It is not complete until the impossible or things hoped for is done.

Faith means receiving strength from God to make impossible become possible. As a weapon, faith is protection to quench the fiery darts of the enemy (Ephesians 6).

CHAPTER ONE

God's Type Of Faith

Faith for the impossible is God' type of faith for God specializes on making impossibilities possible. By faith he made the universe. He created man to inhabit the earth. Even after man had sinned against Him, He made provision by providing a lamb to be slain for man. He called out Abraham who also through faith followed Him not knowing where he was going. Abraham's believe of God was accredited to him as righteousness. By faith, when Isaac was to be slain for sacrifice, a ram was provided for substitute.

Rainhard Bonnke said, "Fear and worry are killers, but faith is the antidote. Faith frees us from fears paralyzing effects. Faith is the Christian bulletproof without which, we are opened to personal deadly damage. Faith is the passport and visa into the kingdom and all its resources. Faith like wiring, carries power. It links us to the power source, Christ in heaven. It is simple faith of ordinary people that touches Christ and not mysterious spirituality. A great hero of God, Asch Bishop Benson Idahosa said in his book, "If Your Faith Says Yes God Will Not say No", *Let us not preach faith and practice unbelief. Let not us not talk power and live in fear. It is time to demonstrate the resurrection power of Christ. The power of faith is in action. When you actualize what you practicalize, you will obtain the result of divine orientation. The time has come to stop stupid incantations and muttering of slogan in the name of prayer, and begin to speak faith language.*

The Raising Of A Girl From Dead To Life

In my life and ministry, it has always been my desire to see miracles and attempt great things to the glory and honour of God no matter where I am. By the year 1992, at one of my stations (i.e.) Assemblies of God, Ikot Obong Ibekwe, Ikot Abasi L. G. A. in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, during the dedication of our second son MfonObong on a Saturday night breaking the Sunday of the dedication. Some young men managed to rush in a dead girl into the temporal place of worship at night- a vacated one parlour building. Having led down the girl, they immediately tapped on my door since we were living there.

I sent my maid to open the door and see who was knocking. She came back gripped with fear and shouted with trembling, "They have brought a dead girl into the Church.

The joy of the dedication was interrupted at this news. I went out to see what was happening, behold, a girl was lying death. They told me they had tried what to do to raise her to life all to no avail. My relations were all around for the dedication and were present that Saturday night. I sent and called one of my prayer boys now a minister of God. Before he came, the miracle had taken place. It did not take long time. By faith in the name of Jesus, the girl breathed.

Having been given a cup of tea, she rose up and sat down. The young men who brought her had dropped her had gone to the side of the road to see what would happen. They were all surprised at what they saw-the raising of the girl back to life.

I told them to go home but to leave the girl at the Church till the following day being Sunday. They all left and when the day broke, I told the girl to go home and dress to the Church service.

On Sunday, the one parlour could not contain people because the raising of the dead girl had attracted so many within the community and beyond. Personalities from the banking and legal sectors attended the occasion. The dedication day turned to be a powerful testimonies' Sunday. Hallelujah.