

# FAITH

THE LINK WITH  
GOD'S POWER



# FAITH

THE LINK WITH  
GOD'S POWER

REINHARD  
BONNKE



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *New King James Version*, © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®, © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Boldface type in the Scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis.

## **FAITH: THE LINK WITH GOD'S POWER**

Harvester Services, Inc.  
PO Box 2295  
Jupiter, Florida 33458  
[www.ReinhardBonnke.com](http://www.ReinhardBonnke.com)

ISBN: 978-1-62911-052-3  
eBook ISBN: 978-1-62911-053-0  
Printed in the United States of America  
© 1998, 2014 by Reinhard Bonnke

Whitaker House  
1030 Hunt Valley Circle  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
[www.whitakerhouse.com](http://www.whitakerhouse.com)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (Pending)

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher.

Please direct your inquiries to [permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com](mailto:permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com).

# CONTENTS

Preface.....7

## Part 1

1. Faith, from Minus to Plus..... 11  
2. Faith, the Sixth Sense? ..... 21  
3. Faith, the Fuse ..... 29

## Part 2

4. From Faith to Faith .....41  
5. Faith in Three Tenses ..... 47  
6. Faith in the God of the Past .....53

## Part 3

7. Faith Breakthrough ..... 65  
8. Faith and Knowing ..... 73  
9. Faith and the Promises..... 81  
10. Faith, Old and New ..... 90

**Part 4**

- 11. Faith of Abraham (Part 1) ..... 99
- 12. Faith of Abraham (Part 2) ..... 108

**Part 5**

- 13. Faith and God’s Character..... 119
- 14. Faith and the Names of God ..... 127
- 15. Faith and God’s “I Will” ..... 137
- 16. Faith and God’s “I” ..... 146

**Part 6**

- 17. Faith for the Night..... 155
- 18. Faith and Night-Sight ..... 162
- 19. Faith and Light..... 167

**Part 7**

- 20. Faith in the Name of Jesus..... 179
- 21. Faith and Prayer ..... 190
- 22. Faith and Fear..... 199
- 23. Faith and the Devil ..... 205

**Part 8**

- 24. Faith and the Shut Door ..... 217
- 25. Faith and My God..... 221
- 26. Faith and God’s Presence..... 228
- 27. Faith and Action ..... 235

Appendix: Faith Versus Doubt ..... 245

About the Author..... 255

## PREFACE

**T**his book comes to you with a fresh angle on the subject of *faith*. It offers profound insights into faith's trials and triumphs, and it highlights God's character and His Word.

Here is just one brief example of how Scripture illustrates the relationship between faith and feelings:

When danger looms large, fear is inevitable. When our body chemistry senses impending disaster, when we suffer heavy blows and our circumstances are oppressive and dark, or when pain and illness sit with us at the fireside, fear and alarm become our natural response. What, then, does faith do? It removes the shackles from our ankles; we challenge the paralyzing grip and move forward anyway. With God, fear will not stop us; we overcome it.

*Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*  
(Psalm 42:5)

Blessings will unfold with each chapter, the focus being firmly set on Jesus Christ, "*the author and finisher of our faith*" (Hebrews 12:2).

It is my desire that this book will teach the never-changing faith principles revealed in the Word of God. They have been proven throughout my fifty-plus years of following Jesus, against the backdrop of decades of front-line evangelism around the world. These same principles have been tried and tested by my colleague, the Reverend George Canty, from the United Kingdom. His scholarly collaboration with me as I prepared the manuscript is something for which I am deeply grateful.

—*Reinhard Bonnke*  
December 2002

# PART 1

---



## FAITH, FROM MINUS TO PLUS

**T**he Bible was written for people with no real faith. Thus, we all begin with a minus, in terms of faith. If we have no faith, reading the Bible will produce it; if we have some faith, reading the Bible will produce more. We do not first acquire the faith that we bring to Scripture. Scripture encourages faith. *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17).

Many who do not believe in God do not read the Bible. They are sick and leave the medicine in the bottle, tightly corked. People without faith should be warned that if they open the Bible, they are likely to end up as believers.

The Bible brings us to the cross. People do not start moving mountains until they have been to Calvary. They could not even move a molehill, let alone a mole. Real faith does not start at the university. We will have less if we go there without any! If we have not been to where Christ saves, not even a doctorate in theology will be able to help us.

The starting pistol is fired at the hill of Calvary, far outside the city wall. From there, we *“press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

*Walking in doubt is like being stuck in a thick fog. We need radar in order to function, which faith provides in this world of uncertainty.*

Walking in doubt is like being stuck in a thick fog. We need radar in order to function, which faith provides in this world of uncertainty. “*The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’*” (Romans 1:17). Believe God! It is life’s greatest adventure.

Chapter by chapter, I want to offer as much knowledge and experience on the subject of faith as I can. Whether you have traveled far along the faith’s road, you’re just beginning, or you haven’t even started yet, I want to come alongside you and share the treasures I have collected over a lifetime.

## The “Plus Life”

One morning, Jesus walked along the glistening shore of Lake Galilee and beckoned to a few local fishermen. He said, “*Follow me*” (Matthew 4:19). In that moment, everything began for those fishermen. Before, life had only been about fish; now, life became about people, action, and changing world history with ever-increasing faith, ever-increasing affect.

Jesus did not call them—or you and me—to ditch their smiles and to wear sackcloth. His mission was not to turn people into “stick-in-the-muds.” Jesus Himself was not very conventional! The disciples caught His infectious spirit, one that would challenge the stuffy establishment. He showed them new things, especially faith and love, by which, they would conquer the world.

## God the Deliverer

The primary truth about God is that He is the Deliverer, the Emancipator, and the Savior. He is God only to the free. Faith is a venture that turns life into an adventure.

Doubt gets us nowhere. Doubt is the mooring rope keeping us in the harbor. Just as ships are designed to ride the high seas on their way to a foreign port, believing in God means casting off the ties that have kept you in the dock. Faith

inspires; doubt paralyzes. Faith says, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13). Unbelief does nothing. Faith in God is exciting.

We become what we were born to be only when we are born again by faith in Christ Jesus, who said, “*If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*” (John 8:36). The Bible is the world’s greatest book on freedom. The very idea of freedom came from the Bible, not from Greece or Rome. Read it! Remember, God made the first free nation ever seen on earth: Israel. And He wants to put a sense of liberty in your very soul. God opposes tyranny, and the gospel makes you a free-born son of God.

People often talk of those who hide behind religion. In *religion*, that may be true, but Christianity is summed up in Christ, and you cannot call Christ a *religion*! He is “*the resurrection and the life*” (John 11:25). He said, “*If you abide in My word...you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:31–32). He is no deceiver. Millions have found themselves gloriously freed through the gospel. His words do not stifle us with rules and commandments, but His yoke is easy and His burden is light. (See Matthew 11:30.) The Sermon on the Mount describes what Christians are naturally—what they want to do, not what they should be like.

## Bondage Is Truth Corrupted

Christ warned His followers, over and over again, to beware of false prophets. This is particularly important to those who are just beginning in the Christian life, but it applies the same to all believers. Not all false prophets are found in cults, either, although there are more than five thousand known cults in the U.S. alone. Many are a threat to the concept of liberty.

By their very nature, cults are all about control. “*By their fruits you will know them*” (Matthew 7:20). Once a cult gets its hands on you, it keeps you under its thumb and in complete control of your money, what you do, where you go, what you think, and who your friends are. The aim of a cult is to destroy your self-reliance and breed dependency. Cult leaders are not shepherds. They are wardens and religious policemen.

Some teach the Scriptures but turn them into chains that bind, standing truth on its head, just as the scribes and Pharisees did. They use the gospel of

deliverance to bind converts, falsifying the very spirit and purpose of God's message. Many of their converts are sad souls who lack true faith and accept handcuffs in order to gain a sense of security.

Jesus was not a spiritual policeman. He did not discipline the disciples. That is not what *disciple* means. He never ordered them about, interfered, or dictated their daily affairs. They came and went as they wished. It was all left to their wisdom and discretion.

That is how Christ deals with us. When we give our lives to Jesus, He makes them our own. If we blindly obey a church leader, we are ultimately responsible before God for what we do. No one should appropriate to himself authority over others. Scripture forbids leaders to be "*lords over those entrusted to [them]*" (1 Peter 5:3). Jesus said, "*One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren*" (Matthew 23:8). Truth comes from the Word of God, which sets us free. God is a Deliverer. Laws, like the Sabbath, were made for man, not man for the laws. (See Mark 2:27.)

## A Million Candlepower

When the apostle Paul was preaching in Troas, "*there were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together*" (Acts 20:8). The Bible writers have a way of saying that kind of thing and yet conveying a spiritual truth. There were two kinds of light there: the oil lamps and the Christians who filled the room.

To be a believer is to be a source of light. "*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:8). Believers are stars; unbelievers are black holes, from which light never escapes. Faith makes us "*children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom [we] shine as lights in the world*" (Philippians 2:15).

*A Christian needs a church just as a candle needs a flame, a tree needs soil, and a light bulb needs a socket.*

A Christian needs a church just as a candle needs a flame, a tree needs soil, and a light bulb needs a socket. Without a flame, a candle cannot burn; without soil, a tree cannot grow; without a

socket, a light bulb cannot shine. Neither can you. Without fellowship, a Christian can neither stand, nor grow, nor shine.

Jesus does not put you on the shelf. He has a special niche in mind for each one of us in His house. He said, “*You are the light of the world*” (Matthew 5:14)—single lamps, but also many lights, joined together. A single lamp, according to Jesus, was to be placed on a lampstand so “*it gives light to all who are in the house*” (verse 15). One candlepower for one house. But He spoke of many lights together: “*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden*” (verse 14). A city does not have one candlepower but a million candlepower. When Christ said, “You are the light of the world,” it was a plural “you.” He brings many lights together, people mingling and joining together, flame with flame.

The “*city set on a hill*” is a church. In Troas, there were many lamps together, because it was a big room. The world is a big place and many lamps are needed. A hymn says, “you in your small corner, and I in mine,” but we face more than a few dark corners; ours is a dark planet. The whole globe needs light. There is no light where there is no faith in God.

Spiritually, the world today is like Genesis 1:2–3: “*Darkness was on the face of the deep...Then God said, ‘Let there be light; and there was light.* Today, God is still saying, “*Let there be light.*”

*For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*  
(2 Corinthians 4:6)

After Christ rose from the dead, the disciples began brightening up the world with the light of the gospel. We should do the same. The establishment complained that they had “*filled Jerusalem with [their] doctrine*” (Acts 5:28), and later, it was said, “*These who have turned the world upside down have come here too*” (Acts 17:6). That is exactly what God said He would do. Psalm 146:9 says, “*The way of the wicked He turns upside down.*” The way of unbelief is upside down, but God turns it the right-side up. That is my job and yours. We are God’s agents for putting a topsy-turvy world upright.

## Business in Great Waters

When Christ beckoned to His first followers, they were unknown, quietly getting on with their business of fishing on a lake. But He sent them out to “do business on great waters” (Psalm 107:23), and “to the end” (Acts 1:8). In Scripture, the sea represents nations, the waves roaring and turbulent. Christ once stilled the storm on the waters. Now He sends us to fish in every nation on earth, “though its waters roar and be troubled” (Psalm 46:3). The Lord speaks peace to the nations.

Jesus does not call us to sit in church and vegetate, as if in a rest home. We have a job to do, not a hobby, and the biggest job of all is to change the world. It is a joint effort, all of us together with Christ. As He said, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18).

## The Ax

The church is Christ’s battle ax. Every ax has a handle and a head with a cutting edge—the handle for leverage, the head for weight, and the sharp edge to do the work. Whether we make the work of God possible by doing the thousands of little jobs that must be done or we give weight to the work by our support or we attack with the cutting edge of evangelism, all these tasks are vitally needed.

I myself, Reinhard Bonnke, lead no church but depend on many churches that give weight to the work I do. My team looks after the endless matters that must be organized, yet we are one in the eyes of the Master.

## The Orchestra

I never attempt anything alone. In a symphony, the soloist needs accompaniment, often from an entire orchestra. All the details of our work must be arranged, whether they are campaigns, literature, TV, films, books, or whatever. There are hundreds, often even tens of thousands, of backup players who must be “in tune” with my aims. They do so with their special gifts and abilities, or with their prayers and financial gifts. I, too, must work “in

tune” with their aims and purposes. Every melody needs harmony and is perfected and enriched by the qualities of other instruments, vocal talents, and choreography. I never go to any country except when groups of churches ask me to come there. We all must work together.

No man seemed stronger in faith than the apostle Paul. When he heard that Christians had appeared in Rome, he wrote to them and said, *“I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me”* (Romans 1:11–12). Mutual faith. Each of us is like a single sheet of paper that cannot stand on its own edge without falling over. But a ream of paper is a block of five hundred sheets, which is able to stand on edge comfortably together, supporting one another. Every believer needs support. The world will not help our cause. The world is no friend to the friends of Jesus.

## The Precious Oils

Speaking of supporting each other, the Bible uses a very striking explanation and illustration for this: oil! We should first understand that oil in Scripture always represents the Holy Spirit. When Scripture talks about oil in lamps, anointing oil, cosmetic oil, or perfumed oil, it is symbolic language for the work of the Holy Spirit.

The idea originates from Psalm 133:1–2: *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head.”* This was referring to the ceremonial pouring of perfumed oil on the head of the High Priest of Israel.

Why is unity like oil? It is because oil represents the Holy Spirit, and He brings unity. That is the link, and two verses use the idea. Ephesians 4:3 speaks of *“endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* Unity through the oil of the Spirit poured upon us is like the oil poured on the head in Psalm 133. Then, in verses 12–13, it says, *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry...till we all come to the unity of the faith.”* So faith also comes into it—faith, the Holy Spirit, and unity all play their part.

Notice that Scripture does not say, “Become united; be one!” It says, *“come to the unity of the faith.”* We cannot “come to” something that does not

exist; but unity does exist. We only have to maintain it. That unity is the presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer. This fact should be demonstrated. We are one in Him from the moment we believe.

## Commitment

Now, nobody can have unity on his or her own. You cannot be married on your own. There is no such thing as an independent believer. You cannot have unity by belonging nowhere. Some say they belong to the universal church but are committed nowhere in particular. This simply means nobody can rely on these people. Churches cannot be built on floaters.

Every born-again believer is *in Christ*, together with all others. “*There is one body and one Spirit*” (Ephesians 4:4)—the great body of believers in heaven and on earth. Everything in the New Testament points to unity. We are to “*bear one another's burdens*” (Galatians 6:2), for example. How can we do that if we have nothing to do with other Christians?

The New Testament always assumes that all believers are attached to one another locally. The epistle to the Ephesians is all about the church, and everything it says is directed to the whole church, as well, not just to isolated individuals. It is the whole church, for example, that must “*put on the whole armor of God*” (Ephesians 6:11), for it is a fighting force, an army.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity. He is the bonding element. This bonding is a wonderful effect of faith in Christ. It is creative. It brings about a new kind of oneness not even known in the closest of earthly families.

## Many Lights

Next, oil represents light. The great national temple in Jerusalem had a famous golden lampstand. The seven-branched menorah is described in Exodus chapters 25, 35, 37, and 39. The Romans carried it off when they plundered Jerusalem in AD 70, and it is depicted on the Arch of Titus, seen daily by tourists in Rome. The menorah is the badge of modern Israel.

This lampstand, or lamp standard, had neither joint nor weld, being made out a single piece of gold. Each arm had a lamp—a wick—and the

oil came from a single source: the central stem. The seven lights shone as one. Jesus talked about oil in lamps, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

In the book Revelation, the apostle John described Christ standing among seven golden lampstands, each representing a church. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing, representing the seven Spirits of God. (See Revelation 4:5.) The seven flames of each candelabrum cast a single light and had a single fuel source—the Spirit of God. There is one Spirit, as we read in 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, manifested in many gifts, ministries, and operations.

*If believers shine and bring brightness into the darkened world, it is by the Holy Spirit; otherwise, they are dead wicks.*

If believers shine and bring brightness into the darkened world, it is by the Holy Spirit; otherwise, they are dead wicks. A wick cannot shine without fuel, no matter how hard it tries. Christ sets our hearts aglow so that we can blaze for God. We don't merely believe. If we believe, we shine.

The world never gets the hang of things. Because of their ignorance of the reality behind Christians, they see Christians only as religious enthusiasts, mere religion pushers, Bible punchers, or religious freaks. This is all the world sees. Unbelievers are like sheep who cannot understand why human beings listen to music. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is not given to the world. That means unbelievers are basically different from us, almost alien, as if they were from Mars.

However, one candle is lit from another candle. The fire, the light of God, is transmitted. That is why we are here. Paul the apostle spent only a few days introducing the gospel to the people of Thessalonica, but later, in a letter to them, Paul congratulated their enthusiasm, saying, “From you the word of the Lord has sounded forth...in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything” (1 Thessalonians 1:8). Faith lights the lamps that show the way. Send the light!

We begin perhaps with no faith—a minus. But at the cross, the flame of faith leaps into our hearts, bringing the Holy Spirit, salvation, and forgiveness. At that place, Christ's infinite work is accomplished, and faith makes it ours. We believe and receive. The Holy Spirit translates all Jesus did for us into our personal experience.

We are the lights of the world. The world likes to think religion is dying, but in vast areas of the world, the death rattle is being heard in the throat of secularism. As Christ is resurrection, godlessness is death. Throughout the world, people are failing to find satisfaction in what mere governments can do, and they are turning to the things of the Holy Spirit.

That is the situation. Have faith, be filled with the Spirit, and burn for God! Let the seven-branched lamp standard be ablaze!

If you believe, and I believe  
And we together strive,  
The Holy Spirit will come down,  
And nations will revive.