

By His stripes we are healed!

Isaiah 53:5

By His stripes you were healed!

1.Peter 2:24

Someone asked Kathryn Kuhlman what faith is. She said:

"Faith is, if you stop believing what you see and start seeing what you believe!"

Faith has to do with invisible things. As soon as the invisible becomes visible faith is no more needed. We have come from faith to sight. "Faith is the conviction of things not seen" Hebrews 11:1. Things exist in the unseen first and faith is making them visible.

I often hold up a bottle of water up in my hand and ask the people in Ethiopia if they believe that I hold a bottle of water in my hand. They lift their hands and say: "Yes, we believe it". I ask: "Why do you believe that I hold a bottle of water in my hands?" "Because we can see it" they answer. Then I tell them I have 200 Birr (Ethiopian money) in my pocket. How many believe that, I ask. Only few lift their hands. "Why do you not believe that I have 200 Birr in my pocket?", I ask. "Because we can't see the money", they answer. "You all have Thomas-faith" I tell them. Thomas only believed what he could see.

I don't need faith for things I can see. I need faith for things I can't see. By faith they would know that I have 200 Birr in my pocket, because I don't lie. Abraham believed God, because Abraham knew that God does not lie. Abraham possessed God's faith. He was convinced of things he could not see and acted like they were true. Abraham said what God said. Faith is agreeing with God. I believe what God believes, I think as God thinks, I speak what God says, I act like God.

God believes that by the stripes of Jesus I am healed. He says it, in his word. He thinks it. Our problem is that we believe more what our body tells us than what God's word tells us. Abraham did not consider his body as good as dead. Abraham believed God, not what his body said and felt, nor what his mind suggested. Abraham did not consider Sarah's body as good as dead. His and Sarah's body contradicted the promise of God.

Someone says: As long as I feel sick and feel pain I can't believe that I am healed. When I feel well and look well I believe I am healed. That would be Thomas-faith, which is walking by sight and feeling. Abraham believed God, that he has a son without having any prove except the word of God. What God says IS, even if my mind and my body don't agree.

One time my wife came home from the doctor and said: "I have good news for you. The doctor says I am pregnant." She did not feel pregnant, she did not look pregnant but the doctor said it and we believed it. We had no evidence except the doctor's word! I could have said: "You don't look pregnant, you don't even feel pregnant, therefore you must not be pregnant. We believe in what we see and feel, no matter what the doctor says." That would have been foolish. Why don't we believe the word of God like we believe the word of a doctor? We want to believe God's word but we demand some evidence first. The Word is our evidence. It is enough evidence.

Jesus told a lame man: "I say to you now, stand up! Carry your stretcher and go on home, for you are healed," Luke 5:24 TPT. Jesus calls the lame man healed. He is calling those things that are not (to the physical eye) as if they are.

The man first had to believe the word of Jesus: "You are healed" before he could get up and walk. You might say: If Jesus would appear to me and tell me: 'You are healed' I would believe it too and act upon it. But Jesus is speaking to us today through his word. And He has said in 1. Pet. 2:24: "By my stripes you were healed." That is all the proof we need. That is why we celebrate communion. We believe that by His stripes we were healed and we remember it in communion and appropriate it. What I think or feel is secondary. Feelings change all the time. God's word is eternal truth! Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word will stand forever.

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