

Faith and the Word

There is a quiet truth that runs through the whole of Scripture, and once you see it, you cannot unsee it. Faith and the Word of God belong together. They are not two separate things that occasionally meet. They are woven together so tightly that you cannot have one in any living sense without the other. Paul puts it plainly when he writes that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Notice the order. The Word comes first. Faith follows.

This matters for every one of us at RCF, because so often we get it the wrong way round. We try to summon faith out of thin air. We strain, and we squeeze, hoping that if we just believe hard enough, something will shift. But faith was never meant to be self-generated. It is a response. It is what rises up in the heart when the living Word of God lands on it. You do not manufacture faith. You receive it as you receive Him.

Think about how God created the world. He spoke. "Let there be light," and there was light (Genesis 1:3). The Word went out and reality answered. That same creative power has not diminished. When God speaks into your situation, into your fear, into your weariness, His Word still carries the authority to make something out of nothing. The question is whether we are listening.

And here is where it becomes personal. The Word of God is not merely information to be filed away. The writer of Hebrews tells us it is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). It does work in us. It exposes what we would rather keep hidden. It heals what we thought was beyond repair. It feeds us when nothing else satisfies. Jesus reminded the tempter, and reminds us, that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

So if faith feels thin, the answer is rarely to try harder. The answer is to come back to the Word. Open the Scriptures. Read them slowly. Let them be spoken over you and into you. Faith grows fat on a steady diet of God's promises. It withers when we starve it of the very thing that gives it life.

I have watched this happen in my own walk more times than I can count. There were seasons when prayer felt like talking to the ceiling, when worship felt hollow, when I wondered whether God had gone quiet. And almost every time, the problem was not that God had stopped speaking. The problem was that I had stopped listening. I had drifted from the Word. The moment I returned, slowly, sometimes reluctantly, faith began to flicker back to life. Not because I had become more impressive, but because the Word does what the Word always does.

This is also why we must hold the Word with reverence and obedience. James warns us not to be hearers only, deceiving ourselves, but doers of the Word (James 1:22). Faith that hears and never acts is not really faith at all. The Word is meant to move from our ears to our hearts to our hands. It is meant to change how we love our neighbours, how we forgive, how we give, how we live in the ordinary week between Sundays.

Friends, the God who spoke the universe into being is still speaking. He speaks through the Scriptures, through His Spirit, through the gathered church. Our part is simply to draw near and listen, and to let what we hear take root. Faith is not a feeling we work up. It is a fruit that grows wherever the Word is welcomed.

So this week, I want to encourage you. Make space for the Word. Carve out the time. Turn off the noise. Sit with an open Bible and an open heart, and trust that as you hear, faith will come. It always has. It always will. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Questions

1. Where have you been trying to manufacture faith instead of receiving it through hearing? **(Romans 10:17)**
2. What situation do you need God to speak light into? **(Genesis 1:3)**
3. What has the Word uncovered in your heart recently? **(Hebrews 4:12)**
4. What is feeding your soul right now, and where are you starving your faith? **(Matthew 4:4)**
5. What have you heard from God that now needs to move into action? **(James 1:22)**