

Foundations 5c—Faith Speaks

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits”. **Hebrews 6:1-3**

We have discussed, in Foundation 5a, that “faith” is a lifestyle of living by the life of Christ inside us. In 5b we discussed that real, saving faith has corresponding actions. Faith without works is dead and cannot save us. We now want to look at another aspect of faith: faith speaks.

In Second Corinthians, Paul is relating to the saints in Corinth some of the trials the apostles had been going through. In the midst of their trials, they were continuing to speak faith.

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” **2 Cor. 4:8-9**

Paul continued saying that as they were going through these trials that God would “raise them up”.

“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you”. **2 Cor. 4:13-14**

According to this Scripture, the “spirit of faith” believes and therefore speaks. Faith has a voice! God’s power is activated when we boldly declare God’s Word and/or speak in agreement with His will.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit”. **Proverbs 18:21**

We are exhorted to hold fast our confession of faith.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **Hebrews 4:14**

“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” 2 Cor. 4:13

The Greek word that is translated “confession” is *homologeō*. “*Homo*” means “the same” and “*logeō*” means “to speak”. Together, the word “*homologeō*” means “to speak the same”, or in Biblical context “to say the same as God says”.

When we are exhorted to hold fast our confession of faith, we are to “speak the same as God says”. This includes speaking in agreement with God concerning what He says about Himself, what He says about us and what He says about His promises to us. It is vital that we learn to hold fast our confession (speaking and decreeing words in

agreement with God’s revealed Word and will). To a large degree, the quality of life that we experience is connected to what comes out of our mouth.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit”. **Proverbs 18:21**

God has given us thousands of promises in the Bible so that we would read them, meditate on them, believe them, hold them in our hearts and SPEAK them. Hebrews 13:5-6 tells us:

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’” **Hebrews 13:5-6**

Notice that Hebrews 13:5-6 says “He (God) Himself has said . . . so we may boldly say”.

God has given us many promises so we would believe them and, according to the spirit of faith, SPEAK the promises.

Genesis chapter 1 records that God created by speaking words. For example, He said “Let there be light” and light was. Over and over God spoke words and creation sprang forth. The sun, moon, stars, plants, fish and fowl were created by God speaking words. We are made in the image of God. We are to agree with what God says and speak what God speaks.

We experience salvation by our confession of faith

“But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” **Romans 10:6-10**

Our salvation includes much more than our initial justification. Salvation also includes the salvation of our soul, which is the transformation of the believer into the character/image of Jesus. This is called sanctification. Our salvation is completed when we are glorified and

have our new incorruptible bodies. So when Romans 10:9 says that “you will be saved”, it means much more than initially being born again and justified by faith. The complete salvation of Christ (justification, sanctification and glorification) is ours to be received by grace through faith.

Romans 10:9 does not say “If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord” . . . “you will be saved”. It says “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus”. There is a big difference. Confessing “Jesus is Lord” is a one-time confession new believers have been taught in order to be born again. Confessing “the Lord Jesus” according to Scripture is an ongoing life-style of believing and confessing (speaking God’s Word) all that is true concerning who Jesus is and what He has done and is doing.

Just as Hebrews 13:5-6 says “He (God) Himself has said” . . . “so we may boldly say”, God has given us thousands of promises so that we may believe them and “boldly say” them.

God has said: (Ephesians 1:7) “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” so that we may boldly say: “I am redeemed by the blood of Jesus. I am forgiven because of the richness of His grace”.

God has said: (Colossians 1:13) “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of His beloved Son” so that we may boldly say: “I am (now) delivered from the power of darkness and have been conveyed into the kingdom of Jesus”.

God has said: (Hebrews 13:20-21) “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great

Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.” so that we may boldly say: “God will, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make me perfect in every good work to do His will. He is working in me what is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever.”

God has said: (1 Thes. 5:23-24) “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*” so that we may boldly say: “God Himself will sanctify me completely and my whole body, soul and spirit will be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls me *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.”

God has said: (Jude 24-25) “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen” so that we may boldly say: “God will keep me from stumbling and He will present me faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To Him, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen!”

God’s Word says: (Psalm 3:3) “But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head” so that we may boldly say “But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.”

God has said: (Psalm 46:1) “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” so that we may boldly say “God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

God has said: (Isaiah 43:2) “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you” so that we can boldly say “I fear no trial because God is with me to protect me and bring me through it.”

There are innumerable other Bible promises given by God to the believer. We are to read them, hold them in our hearts and speak them. As we confess the Word of God, we are confessing the Lord Jesus Christ. As we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus, we then begin to experience His (complete – body, soul and spirit) salvation.

Faith has a voice. The “spirit of faith” speaks the Word of God.