

## ONLY FAITH ACTIVATED THROUGH LOVE



**(Galatian 5:6; I John 4:7-9; James 2: 14-18)**

What is the use, my brethren, for anyone to profess to have faith if he has no works [to show for it]? Can [such] faith save him? (James 2:14) The Word of God describes faith as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). Faith is the pillar of hope. They exist hand in hand. But faith without the activation of love, which compels one to reach out, is according to James, dead. James asked Can faith without work save a person? Paul said, if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing (I Cor. 13:2b). YAHSHUA told the disciples, If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you (Matt. 17: 20). “Faith like a grain of mustard” is enough to move mountains when empowered by love. It is not the size that matters, but the completion of faith in love.

In chapter five of Galatians, Paul emphasizes the importance of faith activated with love as opposed to circumcision, a thing of concern from the Jews. Circumcision becomes a stumbling block of the faith because it is a thing of the flesh, and not spiritual. It was a sign between the nation of Israel and God and it has nothing to do with faith. There is no faith when there is no submission that will lead one to obedience to God. There is no commitment of faith when it is void of love, for God is love. He has poured out His love on us through His blood shed of the cross. It is His love that empowers faith to act. A person void of love, is a person void of genuine faith. According to James, faith that does not have deeds, by itself is destitute of power (2:17). True faith works vertically: it works by love toward God and man; by love to God in the act of obedience and submission to His will, resulting in good deeds toward men. It is not merely by the words "I love you." No. It goes beyond words; it is measured by the sacrificial labor to others.

Faith is the seed and love is its fruit. Imagine a fruit-bearing tree that does not produce fruit. It is like faith without love expressed to others. Its worthlessness is such that it counts for nothing. When YAHSHUA looked for fruit in a fig tree and did not find any, although it was supposed to be bearing figs, He cursed it and the tree died, so faith without love is dead.

It is love that sums up all that the law demands. (Rom. 13:9,10). When love reigns in the heart of man, no law is necessary to be implemented, because man's heart is in tune with God's heart and desire. There will be no desire to kill, to steal, to covet. Instead, there will be contentment, respect for each other empowered by love. When faith embraces love, faith is empowered by God, through His Holy Spirit. Love then will be the spark-plug of faith. It is by love that faith performs that which God intended for the good of man. YAHSHUA, although being God, He submitted Himself to the Father in order to perform the greatest act of love toward men. Even when men were nailing His hands and feet to the cross, His love was never diminished toward them, instead, He prayed, Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing. At the end of His ordeal, the centurion and his soldiers believing Him, recognized God and thanked and praised Him and said, Indeed, without question, this man was upright (Luke 23:47). And as Paul said, but God shows and clearly proves His love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).

Faith will only be the “victory that overcomes the world” when exercised with love. God will only accept what we do for Him if love is part of it. Many in that day, YAHSHUA said, will say to Him, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? And then I will say to them openly, I never knew you; depart from Me you who act wickedly (Matt. 7:22-23). That was done through faith lacking love. Today many are doing these works mentioned above in the name of YAHSHUA. But are they doing in love? Or are they doing for their own fame? Time will tell. Even when we pray for others, our prayers must be with love, otherwise, it will not be answered. That’s reason why many of our prayers are not answered. They did not mingle with love to touch the heart of the One Who is Love. Love will respond only to love. The first thing we should do before we pray for anyone is for God’s love to be poured in our heart for that person. That’s one step forward into having our prayers answered.

YAHSHUA said, Let your light so shine before men in such way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven (Matt. 5:16). When faith is complete in love, men will recognize the goodness of God and will praise Him for whatever we do in faith and love. The light men see in our good deeds is a result of love and faith together, bringing about the glory of God for all to experience and return the praise due Him. So love is the key principle that makes faith work and prayers answered.

Someone once said, “True faith is working grace; it works by love to God and to our brethren.” If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen cannot love God, Whom he has not seen (I John 4: 20). He not only does not know God, but he has never been born of the Spirit. He lacks saving faith also. In chapter fifteenth of John, YAHSHUA instructs the disciples how to bear fruit unto eternity. His requisites were for the disciples to dwell in Him, to remain in Him and in His love, to obey Him, and to love one another. He said, You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do (John 15: 1-15). Without faith it is impossible to please God; so the writer to the Hebrews wrote. Faith energized by love will lead us to do wonderful things for our Lord YAHSHUA. That’s the only way that what we do and have done for the Lord, will count unto eternity with reward.

Paul warned us that the work of each man will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work ( 1 Cor. 3:13). Man's work done lacking love in his faith, will be burned up and will not be accepted by our Lord. It does not matter how hard I work for Him, if my work is empty of love I will not be rewarded, for faith is existent only by love to God and to man. The substance of faith is submission, commitment to the Lord springing forth from love. "We love Him because He first loved us." We are united with Him in that love that is perfect and enduring when we become a new creation and the old one is gone.

**THINK ABOUT IT!**