

204. The Same Faith By Arland Steen

Barbara and I were having devotions recently and were discussing the topic of faith. The discussion was so good that I was inspired in my heart to share the insights we received.

2 Corinthians 4:13 (New King James): *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.*

We Have (The We Part)

The word "we" refers to those of us who are born again and are members of the Church. In Romans 12, Paul addresses his readers this way: I beseech you, therefore, brethren. Then he goes on to say about the "brethren":

Romans 12:3 (New King James): *God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

We Have (The Have Part)

He didn't say "trying to have"

as in "Well, I'm trying to believe God." If you have it, you don't try to believe you have it. If you drove your vehicle to church this morning, how odd would it be for you to say, "I'm trying to believe I have a vehicle outside in the parking lot."

He didn't say "praying for"

as when you pray for something you need or desire.

There are some things you need to pray for and there are some things you don't need to pray for. Pray for the things you need to pray for and believe God for the things you don't need to pray for.

You have salvation, so you don't have to pray for it;

You have God's peace, joy, love and so on, so you don't have to pray for them.

And, you know you have "a measure of faith," so you don't have to pray for it.

You may need a new toaster or a job or favor with a certain individual, so pray for those things according to the Word of God.

He didn't say "hoping for"

regarding things that God has already provided in Christ. He didn't say "hoping for" because hope usually refers to something in the future. And, many things people are hoping for have already been given them and only need to be received by faith.

Now, here's the topic of this verse, here's the thing that we have:

The Same Spirit of Faith

What is this spirit of faith? The writer of Hebrews defines it for us.

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJ): *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Moffatt: *Now faith means we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see.*

Examples of what we hope for:

A reliable vehicle when the present one reaches a certain mileage or wears out or because you want the latest technology or you want to change from a truck to an SUV or from a car

to a truck or from a gas-powered car to an electric car or from a coupe to a sedan or any other number of reasons.

That, as Christian parents, our children will follow God, and the Bible's morals, or have family devotions or attend church regularly and so on. You can't see that when they are five or ten years old because they are too young to make those decisions on their own and don't even have their own family. So, it is a hope you have for the future.

The soon return of Jesus Christ. It's not something in the present but it is a future hope because He said He's coming back and I have the hope that He'll come back just like He said He would.

So, we have the "same spirit of faith."

According to What is Written

What kind of faith is that?

Paul quotes from Psalm 116. Besides being about the life of David, it is Messianic.

Psalm 116:10 (New King James): *I believed, therefore I spoke.*

I Believed and Therefore I Spoke

Paul is talking about the kind of faith that:

Believes and Speaks

The spirit of faith believes God's Word and speaks it out loud.

We Also Believe and Speak

Isn't this the same kind of faith Jesus spoke about?

Mark 11:23 (New King James): *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.*

Notice:

1. The spirit of faith *believes in the heart*.
You can have faith in your heart with doubt in your mind.
2. The spirit of faith *says with the mouth*.
This is so vitally important because of the next thing.
3. The spirit of faith factors in its *coming to pass*.
Verse 23 states that what will be done is whatever is said, not whatever is believed, although the believing is integral to what you must be saying.

Meatloaf & Salad

I awoke at 2:00 AM on Tuesday, July 11, 1978 with chills in my body. I was an assistant pastor of a church and lived in Claremore OK with my new wife of two-and-a-half months. I was in the Word a lot and took a nap in the afternoon. I was drowsy a lot. I'm standing on healing scriptures. Brenda and I went to intercessory prayer at Claremore Christian Fellowship and I was fine. Brenda is sweet as she took good care of me today.

The next day, I meditated the Word all day today and I was weak in my body. Brenda made meatloaf and a salad. I sat in a soft recliner in the living room and when I looked at the salad it turned my stomach. I had a battle and so I decided I would speak to both the salad and the meatloaf. I sat there and made myself eat them both while I was weak and

sweating. Two hours later a volcano erupted in my stomach. I looked down at my stomach and said, "No, you don't." My food stayed in me.

I attended the service at Claremore Christian Fellowship.

The next day was a Thursday and I did a lot of visitation, almost all morning and much of the afternoon. I meditated the Word in the afternoon. I missed a meeting tonight because I needed to stay home and meditate the Word in order to stand against the enemy.

On Friday, July 14th, I had an appointment with an optometrist and felt pretty good most of the day. Towards the end of the day I had two appointments and that's when my body was screaming out that it was weak. These were the worst symptoms of the day. So, I marched around our house with a fever in 100-degree heat while singing "In The Name of Jesus."

After my appointments I ate a hamburger at Sonic and by the time I arrived back home, everything in my body that was negative was gone and I felt fine.

I felt fine all day on Saturday, which was the fifth day of this attack, except for coughing. I had a skirmish at breakfast. I prepared French toast for breakfast but then I could not eat it. My wife made a small sign of a red devil and four little demons looking at a sign that had the name JESUS on it. The demons were fleeing. It wasn't easy but I took heart and ate everything without coughing! That night, we went to Tulsa to have dinner. When I got in bed that night, I placed angels all around the bed, propped the sign up in front of me and said, "No, you don't." I did this for 20 minutes before falling asleep. By Wednesday EVERY symptom was gone!

That's an example of the "same spirit of faith" and 2 Corinthians 4:13 says that we have it!