

FAITH FACTORS

727DT10

TEXT: Hebrews 10:17

Things we have covered so far concerning the subject of faith.

1. We can't please God without it.
2. Faith defined.
3. Faith is an act.
4. The time of faith.
5. Faith is our evidence.
6. We walk by faith and not by sight.
7. Things unseen are more real than things seen.
8. We are already blessed.
9. How faith works.
10. How to determine where you are in faith.
11. That everyone is given a measure of faith.
12. The different kinds of faith.
13. The cure for little or weak faith.
14. How to release your faith.
15. Some enemies to your faith.

Today concerning Faith Factors we are going to study three things. First of all we are going to study the purpose of Hope. Secondly, Is it a lack of faith to go to doctors and take medicine? Thirdly, How to get sick and stay sick.

I. THE PURPOSE OF HOPE

Whenever **Hebrews 11:1** tells us that it is faith that gives substance to hope, it is not telling us that hope is not important.

People without hope are most miserable. They have nothing to look forward to.

Hope is defined as having confidence, expectancy, to wait with hope, to look for.

We hope to be out of debt someday. We hope to be able to buy a house in the future. We hope to be prosperous. We hope to be well.

Things relating to hope are always future. Anything that you can see with the physical eye would not be hope.

The coming of the Lord is the blessed hope. It hasn't happen yet, but we hope for it and patiently wait for it.

Colossians 1:5

5. For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

1 Thessalonians 4:13

13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Titus 2:13

13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Your faith won't change the coming of the Lord, but it will change you.

Anything relating to hope will be future.

Romans 8:23-25

23. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, for wit, the redemption of our body.

24. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25. But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 4:18-21

18. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall they seed be.

19. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21. And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Hope gives us confidence, expectancy, a looking forward to something or some great event.

Hope is great and very necessary, but it is faith that will give substance to hope in order to bring hope into a place of visibility.

II. IS IT A LACK OF FAITH TO GO TO DOCTORS AND TAKE MEDICINE?

First of all I want you to know that I believe in divine healing. I believe it has been provided for in the atonement. Jesus bore the stripes on His back for our healing.

There are some that teach that if we are really people of faith then it wouldn't be necessary to go to doctors, take medicine, have health or life insurance.

This has certainly been an issue of great discussion, but I believe it is God who has provided us with medical knowledge and good doctors that can help us as we are growing in our faith.

Don't get so proud that you think the medical profession is of the devil. You had better thank God for doctors, they keep most of you alive until you can believe God for healing.

Do you know that in your body there is a penicillin like substance that kills germs. The God that made it is not against you taking penicillin.

I would hate to think as a servant of God that I would deny helping a child when I had the ability to do so. Would I allow him to suffer when an injection could help him?

Should I operate on ego and declare that only my great faith could be used to heal him? That is an act of stupidity on my part.

Now have I brought you into an area of no faith because I have dared to mention medicine? NO! Because medicine will never heal you, but it can help you while your healing is being manifested.

Don't put your faith in medicine, but know that it can give you some relief while God is healing your body.

Aspirin doesn't heal you of a headache. Insulin doesn't heal you of diabetes, glycerin doesn't heal you of a heart condition. These medicines only sustain the body until it is healed.

Let's not get so far out that we think that taking any kind of medicine is evil. The Bible never reprimands anyone for taking any sort of medicinal help.

Timothy fought some battles with his body and Paul said take a little wine for thy stomach's sake. It is like saying, take a little Maalox for your stomach to help settle it.

It doesn't disprove healing, because Paul said take a little wine for your stomach's sake and don't you use that as an excuse to drink wine.

III. HOW TO STAY SICK

The purpose of this lesson is not to actually teach you how to stay sick, but instead show you why people are always getting sick and why they stay sick.

Proverbs 6:2, *“Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.”* People will never know how true this verse of Scripture really is.

I want to cover a few brief points concerning the subject on “HOW TO STAY SICK.”

Point 1:

Tell others in great detail all about your infirmities. This will not only gain for you attention, but it will also discourage the faith of others who may need to trust God for healing.

Point 2:

Then speak like this, “When it comes to healing, I'm a real doubting Thomas, I have to see it to believe it.”

Point 3:

Then you can tune in on an actual conversation by one who stays sick much of the time and you'll gain tips on how to have the same results in life.

You can confess that all you know the Bible says about healing is Paul's thorn in the flesh, Job's boils and Timothy's sore stomach.

Point 4:

And if you really want to stay sick, here is a list of nevers:

Never confess, "By His stripes ye were healed" (**Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24**), for this would boldly honor what Jesus Christ provided when He was beaten for the healing of His people.

Never confess, "Himself took our infirmities and bear our sicknesses" (**Matthew 8:17**). If you said this, you would be agreeing with God and this would never help you to stay sick.

Never confess, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (**Hebrews 13:8**). This would be admitting that the same Christ who healed the sick is still the same today in His compassion, power and willingness to heal.

Point 5:

Then you should tell others about your operations, your afflictions and your health problems in general. This will keep you on the level of the natural rather than the supernatural.

Point 6:

If you have ever received healing or a miraculous answer to prayer, don't talk about it. This may cause you to think that God might do it again, and you couldn't stay sick any longer.

Point 7:

If you have had a loved one or relative die of some disease, talk about it often. Say often, "I had faith in God for a long time, but when He wouldn't heal my loved one, then I just lost all faith for healing." Then be bitter against God.

Point 8:

When you hear a wonderful testimony of healing on the radio, TV, or read about one, be sure to scoff and cast doubt upon the authenticity.

Point 9:

Always say, "I can't get my healing, God just won't meet my need. I'm so weak in my faith. I've tried before but was defeated or I've had everybody pray for me, but got no results."

CONCLUSION:

Now if you want to stay sick just practice these nine points. But if you are "sick and tired of being sick and tired," confess just the opposite and you'll obtain the benefits of God's great blessings.

What you confess is exactly what you'll possess, whether it be sickness or health. "*Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.*"

Instead of being sick and staying sick why not confess your healing and have good health.

Don't ever confess, "I can't get my healing."

Don't ever confess, "God just won't meet my need."

Don't ever confess, "I'm weak in faith."

Don't ever confess, "I'm so worried that I might get cancer."

Don't ever confess, "My faith is going to be shattered."

Don't confess the bad, but instead confess the Word.

Confess "I'm a new creature in Christ" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

Confess, "I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ" (**Ephesians 1:3**).

Confess, "I am an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ..." (**Romans 8:17**).

Confess, "The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid" (**Psalms 27:1**).

Confess, "But my God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 4:19**).

Confess, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (**Romans 8:37**).

Confess, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (**Romans 8:31**).

Confess, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (**Philippians 4:13**).

Confess, "By His stripes I am healed" (**1 Peter 2:24**).

Confess, "Himself took my infirmities, and bare my sicknesses" (**Matthew 8:17**).

Confess, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever" (**Hebrews 13:8**).

If you will confess these things over and over again everyday it will change your life

The decision is yours to make. What will it be healing or sickness?