

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

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Faith is proven to be real when it is tested. Every believer goes through one form of challenge or the other which God permits to test and prove the faith of the believer. If you claim to believe that God heals, a day will come when you will have to prove it by being challenged by a health condition. Life is all about tests which prove or expose our weaknesses, insincerity and hypocrisy so we can make corrections where necessary and wax stronger when we pass the test.

That challenges come your way is not a sign of weakness on God's part to protect and keep His word to you. Challenges that come your way may not be a sign of sinfulness in your life or a sign of God's anger on your disappointing behavior. I do agree that sin opens the door for evil to happen to us, all challenges are not as a result of sin. Since you may not know what may have created the opening for the devil or the cause of the challenge, the first place to start in solving the problem is to do a self-examination to find out if you have done something that have opened the door for the enemy and block that hole or close the door as it were. Once you have done that the coast will be clear for you to face the challenge and overcome it. Having said that, I will like you to understand that there are times when you examine your life and you will not find what you may have done to experience such a challenge like Job did. You don't have to despair. What you need to do is to open up to God and allow Him to help you fight and overcome the challenge.

*Job 1:1-2*

*1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.*

*NIV*

*1 Cor 11:31-32*

*31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.*

*NIV*

When you are going through a challenge your faith is under fire. If you hold unto your faith, you will win, but if you give up, you will lose. It is faith that helps us win the battles of life. Faith is our shield with which we quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

*Eph 6:16*

*6 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

*NIV*

Do not blame God or anyone for your experience. Don't apportion blames, but fix the problem. Your church or pastor is not the reason why you are going through a tough time. Face the challenge like a son of God that you are and win.

### **STEPS TO VICTORY OVER CHALLENGES**

#### **1. You need to believe in who you are in Christ.**

Knowledge of who you are gives inner energy to fight on to victory. That is why the Bible is full of passages that reveal who we are in Christ.

*John 1:12-13*

*12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*NIV*

*John 3:31*

*31 "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.*

*NIV*

*1 John 5:4*

*4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*

*NIV*

There are more passages that reveal who we are in Christ. But the passages quoted above are enough to strengthen you and bring out the overcomer in you. It takes faith to overcome. And faith comes by acknowledging what God says about you. You must believe in these scriptures. It is not enough for you to know them, you must believe in them with all your heart without a single doubt.

To be a child of God means you are like God. It means you have his nature and life. And if that is true, it means that what he can take, you can also. It means that you can overcome what he can overcome. You can love as he loves. You can forgive as he forgives. You can stand any situation, as he is able to. Everything that makes him able to put up with man's evil behaviour without getting so angry as to destroy mankind, he has put in you also. That is why Apostle John by the Holy Spirit says he who is born of God overcomes the world. By nature, every believer is an overcomer. Defeat is not in our nature. To throw in the towel is not in the nature of the believer in Christ. We are winners and finishers by birth in Christ. Don't allow any condition to defeat you. Face it boldly and not with fear and anxiety. Your faith is what gives you victory. You will finish what you have started. You will accomplish that goal. You will overcome that challenge.

You must believe you are more than any and every challenge that will come your way anytime any day. You are from above. Your father is from above; he is called God Almighty. And he who is from above is above all. You are above all the problems and challenges of life. In Him, you are above all. He has overcome for us. His victory is our victory. He lives in you and that is what makes the difference. You are not of this world anymore, but of heaven. You have a supernatural life in you, which make the things that give men nightmares not to overcome you. You are victorious by the nature you have. Approach every challenge on earth with this mindset and you will always have victory.

## **2. Don't magnify the challenge by focusing negatively on it.**

When you focus on the problem negatively, you will blow the problem out of proportion. The situation will then become bigger, tougher, rougher and mightier than you can handle. This in turn will make you panic, fear, worry and doubt the ability of God to handle the matter for you.

*Isa 26:3*

*3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*

*NIV*

*Isa 30:15*

*15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.*

*NIV*

*Heb 12:2*

*2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*NIV*

God expects us to fix our minds on him and not the problem facing us. When we fix our minds on God, He gives us peace, which is very necessary for Him to strengthen us and work out our deliverance. God does not perform when we do not trust Him in peacefulness of mind. When you focus on the problem, you will become troubled, but when you place your trust in God, peace is given and miracle occurs. Don't worry or panic. Don't be anxious, but have faith. Never consider a problem to be too difficult for you. If you do, then it will be difficult for you to trust God for victory. See God in you always, and you will see yourself as capable. And when you see yourself as capable, peace will flood your heart, and then God your Father will go to work for you. Don't forget that God only works for us when we are trustingly quiet as we wait on Him to change our situation.

## **3. Believe the challenge will be overcome.**

Your faith is what gets the job done. Your faith therefore must be intact if the problem must be solved.

*Mark 11:22-24*

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

NIV

Faith is very important if mountains are to be moved and situations change. It takes strong faith to address a situation to move and have it come to pass. Therefore it is very essential that one build his or her faith before embarking on the task of moving a mountain. Only faith makes it possible.

Have faith in your God and in yourself. Believe you have been given all it takes to overcome every challenge that comes your way. Have faith in your prayers. Believe that when you pray, God hears you and no one can hinder your prayer from being heard and answered. Believe you have received what you have asked God and then and only then you will receive it.

#### **4. Be fervent in prayer.**

Prayer makes tremendous power available to face challenges and overcome them. Fervent prayer is prayer offered with intensity and sincerity of heart. It is prayer based on the word of God with deep rooted faith.

*James 5 16*

*16 .....The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].*

*Amp*

Do not go about complaining to people or grumbling about your challenge. Go to God in fervent prayer. Keep praying until you overcome. Through prayer gain strength to stay strong until you win. Through prayer gain insight about the source, nature of the challenge, and the way out it. Through prayer challenge the powers behind the problem and overcome them. The more you pray the easier it becomes. Prayers offered in faith always produce results.

#### **5. Occupy your time with the word.**

Dig into the word during challenge time to gain more light. The word of God will build strong faith in you, and keep it stable. The word of God will comfort and motivate you to victory. When faith is under fire read and study books on faith and the subject area of your challenge. It will deliver victory to you.

*Josh 1:8-9*

*8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

NIV

**6. Go to the house of worship.**

Attending church services will afford you the opportunity of being encouraged and motivated with the word of God when your faith is under fire. Do not stay away from church because you are going through a challenge. In fact you need to fellowship more and be ministered to.

*1 Thess 3:2-3*

*2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.*

NIV

*1 Thess 5:11*

*11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

NIV

*Heb 3:13*

*13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

NIV

*Heb 10:25*

*25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

NIV

**CONCLUSION**

You are more than a conqueror. You are from above and above all the problems of this world. You are no longer under the dominion of darkness. You are no longer under the dominion of sin because you are not under the law but under grace. Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world. You are a champion, a king to reign in this life. Do not fear or panic when your faith is under fire. Take the heat and overcome the devil behind the challenge and the challenge itself. Do not panic. Do not worry but trust the Lord with all your heart and He will see you through and make you victorious. Don't just read this and agree it is true, but believe it and work with it now and always. Remain victorious in Jesus Christ!