

22. WHAT IS FAITH?(ANSWERS)

BIBLICAL FAITH IS A/AN: -

FIRM CONFESSION

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

INSIGHTFUL LIFESTYLE

TENACIOUS ATTITUDE

HAZARDOUS ACTION

AMPLIFICATION

FIRM CONFESSION

This is a positive confession based on the knowledge that God is able to perform that which has been requested or promised. The tongue has power to bear fruit.

Prov 18:21 states " Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (KJV) Therefore confession has power to impart life or death.

Because of it's power we are warned of the following:-

James 5:12

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. (KJV)

Matt 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. (KJV)

Prov 13:3

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. (KJV)

Prov 21:23

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. (KJV)

Confession is an essential process in salvation. Here we see the tongue bearing the fruit of eternal life.

Rom 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (KJV)

The firm confession here is based on a believing heart. The following are examples of Firm Confessions that were acts of Faith: -

JOSHUA AND CALEB

Num 13:30

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. (KJV)

Num 14:6-9

6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. (KJV)

Joshua and Caleb confessed with conviction that the children of Israel were "well able" to possess the Land of Canaan. The 10 spies on the other hand submitted a negative confession (Num. 13:31-33). They confessed a curse over their lives, sentencing the children of Israel to 40 yrs of "hoping" in the wilderness like grasshoppers.

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

Mark 5:27-28

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. (KJV)

This woman confessed that she would be healed once she touched Jesus' clothes. Note that Jesus commended her faith. (vs.34)

JAIRUS

Mark 5:23

And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. (KJV)

Jairus confessed that his daughter would be healed once Jesus laid His hands on her.

THE CENTURION

Matt 8:8b

... speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. (KJV)

The centurion knew that words from a man of authority had power (vs.9). He confessed it was not necessary for Jesus to come to his house - all that was required was a command from Jesus and his servant would be healed. Jesus saw the conviction of his confession and commended his faith (vs.10).

THE BLIND MEN

Matt 9:27-28

27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. (KJV)

The blind men confessed their belief that Jesus was able to heal them although they had never seen a miracle before.

THE SHUNAMITE WOMAN WHOSE SON WAS DEAD

II Ki 4:25-26

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well. (KJV)

DAVID WHEN FACING GOLIATH

I Sam 17:45-47

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. (KJV)

David confessed graphically the fate of Goliath and the Philistines.

SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABED-NEGO

Dan 3:17

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (KJV)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego confessed with conviction that God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace.

ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESS IN A FIRM CONFESSION

[1] BASED ON GOD'S WORD

The story of the Shunamite woman whose son was dead

[2 Kings 4:8-37]

The Shunamite woman, upon perceiving that Elisha was a man of God, provided boarding and lodging for him whenever he came to Shunem. When Elisha heard that she had no children he promised that she would be blessed with a son.

The woman replied (vs.16), *"...No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"*

Through her earlier perception of Elisha as a man of God she knew that he would not lie to her. The room that she provided for Elisha became "covenant ground". The woman conceived as prophesied by Elisha. After a period of time the child died. The woman did not fret. She laid her dead son on the covenant ground (vs. 21). She did not report his death to her husband but when asked why she was going to visit the man of God she replied (vs.23), *"...it shall be well"* (vs.23). On the basis of her covenant with Elisha she confessed, *"it shall be well"* (vs.23).

II Ki 4:25-26

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well. (KJV)

As she drew nearer to the prophet her positivity increased to *"it is well"* (vs.26). She confessed this because she believed that Elisha would raise him from the dead. Her faith was based on Elisha's words. The prophet's words were equivalent to God's words. Her faith was responsible for the resurrection of her son. If she harboured bitterness against Elisha and stayed at home to mourn the death of her son, she would have missed the miracle of the resurrection.

The story serves as an illustration of how one should trust God's Word. Circumstances must not influence our confession negatively. We have a better covenant with better promises (Heb.8:6). Our covenant was ratified by the blood of Jesus not in some obscure room but upon the cross of Calvary for the whole world to see. God's Word will not return void. It is impossible for God to lie. Maintain your confession in the face of negative and apparently insurmountable obstacles providing it is based on a sure word (Rhema) from God.

THE STORY OF JAIRUS [Mark 5:23-43]

Mark 5:23

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. (KJV)

Jairus confessed what would happen once Jesus laid His hands on his dying daughter. He said, *"...come and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she shall live"* (vs.23).

Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue. He accurately perceived who Jesus was and no doubt recognized His ministry as the Great Healer. As a ruler of the synagogue he must have heard Jesus declare, *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,... Luke 4:18 (KJV)*

His confession was based on Jesus' words. His faith resulted in the resurrection of his daughter.

Thus the first important element for a Successful Firm Confession is that it must be based on God's word.

[2] FROM THE HEART

The second important element in a Successful Firm Confession is that it must come from the heart - there must be no doubting.

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (KJV)

Matt 12:34 states "... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (KJV)

JAIRUS [Mark 5:23-43]

How are we to establish that Jairus believed in his heart i.e. he did not doubt?

Jairus waited patiently for Jesus when Jesus was delayed by the woman with the issue of blood. Being the ruler of the synagogue, he could have used his position to coerce Jesus to ignore the woman and concentrate on his urgent problem. He believed in his own confession and waited patiently for its fruit.

When the messenger arrived to inform him that his daughter was dead, Jairus did not change his confession. He did not abandon Jesus to verify the report but stood silently at Jesus' side obeying his words *"only believe"* and clinging to his confession.

What did Jairus believe?

He believed in his confession from the heart, *"...Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she shall live"* (Mark 5:23)

He said that he believed and proved that he believed by what he had said.

A Successful Firm Confession must come from the heart and be based on God's Word (will of God).

A confession may be from the heart but if it is not based on God's Word it will not succeed.

EXAMPLES: -

CONFESSION OF GOLIATH

1 Sam 17:44

44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. (KJV)

This did not work because God appointed David to be the next king (1Sam.16:1,13). David was not king yet. Goliath could not abort God's plan for David. Goliath's confession was not based on the Word of God.

CONFESSION OF PETER

Matt 26:33

33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. (KJV)

Peter was emphatic in his declaration that he would not deny Jesus. This was not based on God's Word for vs.31 prophesied the reaction of the disciples.

Matt 26:31

Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. (KJV)

[3] RIGHTEOUSNESS

The third element of a Successful Firm Confession is Righteousness. Righteousness means to be in right-standing with God. This entails holiness, faithfulness, truth and love.

EXAMPLES:-

1Cor.13 reveals that love does not keep a record of evil. Those who walk in unforgiveness are not in right-standing with God.

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (KJV)

Mark 11:23 deals with a Firm Confession. Verse 25 deals with being in right-standing with God through forgiveness. For vs.23 to work, it is imperative that vs.25 is first operational in one's life.

See 1Sam.4:3-5

Israel confessed that the presence of the ark, would *"...save us from the hand of our enemies"* (vs.3). They believed that from their hearts and *"...all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook"* (vs.5). Their confession was based on God's Word. The ark assured them past Victories, overcame obstacles crossing (Jordan river), petrified the enemy and protected them etc. The terrified Philistines confessed negatively (vs.7-8). However Israel suffered a humiliating defeat (vs.10).

The nation was not in right-standing with God because: -

The priesthood was immoral (1Sam.2:12-17).

The protocol in approaching and handling the ark was not followed. (Only the High Priest could minister at the ark. The ark was to be carried by the levites).

For these reasons they were defeated although the confession came from the hearts and was based on God's Word.

See Joshua 7

The men who went to spy the country of Ai reported - vs.3: *"...Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."*

They confessed that two or three thousand men would be sufficient to smite Ai. However, they suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of a smaller enemy. God gave the reasons in vs.13: *"...There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."* Although Joshua was promised victory (Josh.1:3-5), nonetheless, they were defeated.

The confession in this case came from the heart and was based on God's Word to Joshua but it did not work because Israel was not in right-standing with God. There was an accursed thing in their midst. Achan had retained a Babylonish garment, some silver and gold from Jericho contrary to God's will (vs.21). When the offence was dealt with Israel was victorious.

Thus the people making the Confession must be in right standing with God for His confession to work.

IN THE SPIRIT

The fourth important element for a Successful Firm Confession is that the confession must be quickened by the Holy Spirit i.e. led or prompted by the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (KJV)

If Paul went to Asia, contrary to the Spirit's leading, he would not have been successful even if he confessed positively (Acts 16:6-7).

The Example of Samson: -

Judg 16:20

And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. (KJV)

Samson's confession failed. He was not in the Spirit.

Prov 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (KJV)

Life is in the power of tongue.

A tongue directed by the Spirit brings life.

John 6:63 states that, *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*

Carnal confessions don't work. They are directed by the flesh and invite great hardships.

EXAMPLE: -

Joseph confessed his dream prematurely (Gen.37:5-11) to his brothers - provoking them to jealousy.

Nehemiah was careful not to confess his vision prematurely.

Neh 2:12

And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon. (KJV)

THUS THE FOUR IMPORTANT ELEMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FIRM CONFESSION ARE:

- The confession must be Word based.
- There must be no doubting. ie. It must be from the heart.
- The person confessing must be in right-standing with God.
- The confession must be prompted by the Spirit.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF BIBLICAL TRUTHS THAT YOU SHOULD CONFESS: -

CHRIST'S LORDSHIP/ DIVINITY/ GLORY

Phil 2:9-11

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (KJV)

{ See Luke 12:8; Rom.10:9; Matt.16:16; 1 Chr.16:24 and Ps.96:3 }

OFFENCES

1 Jn 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (KJV)

{ See Ps.32:5 ; Ps.38:18; James 5:16 }

NAME OF THE LORD

Heb 2:12

Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. (KJV)

{ See Ps.22:22; Is.26:13; Eph.5:20; Prov.18:10; Acts 3:6,16a and Luke 24:47 }

FAITH IN CHRIST

Matt 10:32

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (KJV)

{ See John 11:27 and Acts 8:37 }

ETERNAL LIFE

Ps.107:2

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

SUCCESS

Num 13:30

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. (KJV)

Rom 8:37

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (KJV)

{ See Mark 5:27-28 and 2 Kin.4:25-26 }

STRENGTH

Joel 3:10

Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. (KJV)

{ See Ps.91:2; Eph.6:10; Phil.4:13; 2Cor.12:10 }

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

This is a " YES " action - an act of obedience. It is doing exactly what God commands one to do. Obedience is the visible demonstration of faith.

Examples: -

[1]. NOAH

Gen.7:5

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. (KJV)

Noah built a large boat on dry land in obedience to God's command even when there was no evidence of an impending flood. The writer to the Hebrews declares Noah's obedience as faith.

Heb 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. (KJV)

Noah built the ark because he believed God. The ark saved Noah from the flood - in essence it was Noah's faith that saved him and his family. Noah demonstrated his faith by building the ark.

1 Pet. 3:21 a,

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (KJV)

Noah building of the ark corresponds in likeness to water baptism as a work of FAITH. We are saved by believing in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15: 1-4).

This is our faith. But faith without works is dead. Baptism is one of the ' works ' . Water baptism visibly demonstrates your belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

[2]. THE TEN LEPERS WHO WERE HEALED

Luke 17:12-14; 19

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. 19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole. (KJV)

Their faith in this case was obedience to Christ's command to go to the priests. Lepers only went to the priest after they were healed - to observe the ceremonial law. The fact that they obeyed before there was any visible signs of healing was an act of FAITH.

[3]. ABRAHAM

3.1. In leaving home to settle in a foreign land

Heb.11:8

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. (KJV)

3.2. In Offering Isaac

Heb.11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, (KJV)

Abraham's faith was demonstrated by his obedience in leaving his home town for a foreign land and in offering Isaac as a burnt offering.

[4]. THE BLIND MAN

John 9:7

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. (KJV)

The blind man obeyed the specific command of Jesus. He was told to wash in the pool of Siloam. There were many other pools in Israel. His obedience in going to the specific pool commanded by Jesus was an act of faith that resulted in his healing.

[5]. GIDEON

Heb 11:32

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: (KJV)

Gideon obeyed God by going against the Midianites and Amalekites who were numbered as "locusts", with only 300 men.

[6]. MOSES - IN KEEPING THE PASSOVER

Heb 11:28

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. (KJV)

DISOBEDIENCE IS A LACK OF FAITH

EXAMPLES:

[1]. ABRAHAM

God called Abraham to go to the Land of Canaan. In Canaan the Lord appeared to Abraham to confirm His promise.

Gen 12:7

And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. (KJV)

Soon there was famine in the land (Gen.12:10). The green pastures began to dry up. The wells began to empty. He could have asked God to sustain him in the famine. Instead he packed up and went to Egypt. This act of disobedience demonstrates Abraham's lack of faith and had serious consequences for him:

[a]. God never appeared to Abraham in Egypt.

Egypt is a symbol of the world. Christians who go back to the world lose the "felt presence" of God.

(See Book Two in this Bible Mnemonic study series titled " God's Manifest Presence")

[b]. He was forced to lie (Gen.12:13,18-19).

{ A lie was intended when he said Sarah was his sister. }

The world will force you to sin. Peter denied Jesus in the company of the world.

[c]. Acquired wealth that led to strife with Lot.

The world will make you rich but with riches will come sorrow. When God makes you rich there is no sorrow with it.

Prov 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. (KJV)

[d]. He acquired Agar, an Egyptian handmaid.

She was later used to "assist" God in His promise of a son. Agar had a son called Ishmael who was a constant source of persecution to the promised son Isaac. Worldly indulgence sows the seeds for painful future consequences.

[e]. Pharaoh chased Abraham from Egypt (Gen.12:20).

There is no room for the Christian in the world. The world will hate and persecute you.

[2]. SAUL

See 1 Sam.28:5-20 : Saul's consultation with a familiar spirit was an act of disobedience that stemmed from his lack of faith.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE

• OBLIGATORY

Eccl 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (KJV)

- **BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**

1 Sam 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. (KJV)

- **ENABLED BY GOD**

Phil 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (KJV)

John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (KJV)

- **DEMONSTRATES LOVE FOR GOD**

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments. (KJV)

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (KJV)

- **CHRIST- CENTERED**

2 Cor 10:5

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (KJV)

1 Pet 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (KJV)

Eph 6:1

I Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (KJV)

- **ESTABLISHES DIVINE FELLOWSHIP**

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (KJV)

INSIGHTFUL LIFESTYLE

F - FIRM CONFESSION

A - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

I - INSIGHTFUL LIFESTYLE

T - TENACIOUS ATTITUDE

H - HAZARDOUS ACTION

This is living according to an accurate perception of the future. An insightful lifestyle requires an attitude or a way of life that confirms that one truly believes. One who has an insightful lifestyle perceives God's future will for the work of the Kingdom accurately and is not affected by circumstances.

e.g. Abram' name change to Abraham.

Abram - means " exalted father "

Abraham - means " Father of a multitude" (Gen.17:5). Abraham accepted his name change to

Abraham and lived under that name at a time when he had no children because he was persuaded of God's faithfulness to His Word.

Illustration : Ready for rain

The drought of the past winter threatened the crop in a village of Crete. The priest told his flock: " There isn't anything that will save us, except a special litany for rain." Go to your homes, fast during the week, believe and come on a Sunday for the litany rain, " The villagers heard him, fasted during the week and went to the church on Sunday morning, but as soon as the priest saw them, he was furious. He said, " Go away, I will not do the litany. You do not believe." " But Father," they protested, " we fasted and we believe." " Believe? And where are your umbrellas?"

[James S. Hewett: Illustrations Unlimited - page 188]

This aspect of faith is characterised by: -

[1]. THANKING BEFORE RECEIVING

EXAMPLES:-

(a). Jesus thanked the Father before the resurrection of Lazarus for answered prayer

(John 11:41).

(b). Jonah offered thanksgiving before his deliverance.

Firstly he confessed his error - Jon.1:12 [NIV]

Result: Jon.1:15 - He was thrown overboard

Secondly he prayed - Jon.2:2[NIV]

Result: vs 2:3a - He sank into the depths of the sea.

Thirdly he repented - Jon.2:4c[NIV]/ *Yet I will look again toward your holy temple.*

Result: Jon.2:5c - seaweed was wrapped around his head

Jonah's problem worsened.

Fourthly he began to thank God - Jon.2:9 [NIV] " *But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will*

sacrifice to you....

Result: Jon.2:10 " *And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land."*

As his life was " ebbing away", he offered " a song of thanksgiving". This act of faith preceded his deliverance.

[2]. SEEING BEFORE RECEIVING.

EXAMPLES: -

(i). ABRAHAM: Seeing the city of God

Heb 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (KJV)

In the promised land Abraham did not build a house with a foundation but lived in tents setting his eyes in the new Jerusalem whose builder and maker is God.

(ii) ABRAHAM: Seeing the resurrection of Isaac

Heb 11:19

Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. (KJV)

Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac, believing that " God was able to raise him up."

Gen 22:5

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. (KJV)

Abraham expected to return to the young men with his son, therefore he said " we will come back..."

(iii). Seeing the promised Seed

Abel: saw the death of the Seed. In faith he offered a blood sacrifice that prefigured Christ's death (Heb.11:4).

Enoch: saw the second coming of the Seed (Heb.11:5/ Jude 14).

Noah: saw the Seed bringing deliverance (Heb.11:7).

Abraham: saw the heavenly city of the Seed and the resurrection of the Seed (Heb.11:10 /

Heb.11:19).

Jesus said in John 8:56 - "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." (KJV)

Moses: saw the death of the Seed in the passover sacrifice(Heb.11:28).

All saw the promised Seed by faith.

THE SEED IS JESUS CHRIST: -

Gen 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (KJV)

(iv). Jeremiah - seeing the restoration of Israel

At the time when Judah was going to come under Babylonian captivity real estate values were falling, yet Jeremiah purchased land (Jer.32:7-14). He believed God's Word that the land would be restored to Israel after the captivity of 70 years.

Jer 32:15

For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land. (KJV)

This insightful lifestyle was an act of FAITH.

(v). Jacob - seeing striped cattle before they appeared

Gen 30:37-39

37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. 38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink. 39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted. (KJV)

Jacob believed that the white stripes in the branches were responsible for the striped, speckled and spotted flocks. The mental impression of stripes at the time of mating influenced the offspring. In using striped rods Jacob saw striped cattle before they appeared.

(vi). The faith of Moses

Heb 11:26-27

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. (KJV)

(vii) Blind Bartimaeus

Saw his healing before he received it. When Jesus called blind Bartimaeus, Bartimaeus discarded his garment. He accurately perceived that he would be healed and would no longer need his garment to certify his blindness (hazardous action) - Mark 10:47-52.

(viii). Apostle Paul

People of faith are neither locked in the past nor satisfied with the present. Paul said - "

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (KJV) (Phil 3:13). They were ahead of their time. Notice Paul's statement in 1 Cor 15: 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.(KJV)

This does not mean immaturity as in the case of a premature baby but of wisdom and knowledge that supersedes one's generation. Paul had a grasp of the mysteries in the Bible that others did not know of.

An Insightful lifestyle must be: -

Based on the Word of God/ will of God.

e.g.

(a). *Jeremiah was directed by God to buy land at the beginning of the captivity.*

(b). *Abram's name was changed by God.*

Heb 11:1,13,20

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.(KJV)

[3]. BOLDNESS IN ADVERSITY

Boldness in adversity instead of cowardice, discouragement and worry is an act of faith based on the promises of God's Word - of strength companionship, courage and victory:-

Heb 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (KJV)

Rom 8:31

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (KJV)

2 Cor 2:14

14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. (KJV)

EXAMPLES :

(a) NEHEMIAH

Neh 6:11

And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. (KJV)

(b) DANIEL

The decree from the king forbade Daniel from praying to God. Daniel openly prayed to God and thanked Him. He was undeterred by the decree because of his confidence in God's power to deliver him.

Dan 6:10

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. (KJV)

Dan 3:16-17

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (KJV)

[4]. REJOICING IN TRIBULATION

Phil 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. (KJV)

Rejoicing reveals one's confidence in God's providential care. It implies that one believes that the situation is definitely going to get better because God is in control. Absence of an insightful lifestyle is a lack of faith.

EXAMPLES :

(1) Joash did not have an insightful lifestyle (2 Kin. 13:18-19).

II Ki 13:18-19

18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. 19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice. (KJV)

Elisha rebuked him for his feeble act of smiting the ground thrice only as this showed that he did not have the faith to believe that he could crush Syria.

(2). The disciples' fear.

The disciples' fear in the storm at sea was a lack of faith. They failed to perceive that Jesus would take them safely to the other side (Mark 4:35-40). They had no confidence in Jesus' earlier words -vs.35 "*Let us pass over unto the other side.*"

(3). Elijah's discouragement (1 Kin.19:1-18)

Those who do not have an insightful lifestyle live in worry and discouragement. They lack confidence in God's promises and ability.

IKing 19:4

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. (KJV)

Elijah's discouragement was a lack of faith that resulted from his failure to perceive that God would overcome Jezebel just as He had overcome the prophets of Baal. This lack of faith brought his ministry to an end.

T - TENACIOUS ATTITUDE

F - FIRM CONFESSION

A - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

I - INSIGHTFUL LIFESTYLE

T - TENACIOUS ATTITUDE

H - HAZARDOUS ACTION

This is an attitude of perseverance based on the understanding that God is able to meet the need that is according to His will. This attitude depicts one's utter dependance on God.

The attitude of perseverance is a demonstration of true faith.

Examples : -

[1]. SYROPHOENICAN WOMAN

Her persistence was an act of FAITH.

She overcame the selfishness of the disciples.

Matt 15:23

But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. (KJV)

She overcame prejudice.

Matt 15:24

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (KJV)

She worshiped even though she was rejected.

Matt 15:25

Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. (KJV)

She overcame insult.

Matt 15:27

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. (KJV)

Jesus commended her FAITH.

Matt 15:28

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. (KJV)

[2]. BLIND BARTIMAEUS PERSISTED.

Mark 10:47-52

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. 48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. 49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. 50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. 52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way. (KJV)

Blind Bartimaeus cried to Jesus to gain his attention. He called Jesus by His Messianic Name " Son of David." He recognised Jesus as Messiah even though he was blind. When the others warned him to be quiet " he cried out all the more." His perseverance brought Jesus to a standstill. Jesus said " Your faith has made you whole."

[3]. THE FOUR MEN WHO BROUGHT THE PALSIED MAN.

See Mark 2:1-12

They did not give up when they saw the crowd but persevered to the extent of going through the roof to reach Jesus. Their tenacity was a visible act of FAITH.

Mark 2:5, " ...Jesus saw their faith....."

[4]. ABRAHAM

Rom 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 thy 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 Sarah'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. (KJV)

Abraham persevered. He did not consider the state of his body or the " deadness of Sarah's womb." He was confident in God's promise of a son although he was 100 years old. He clung to God steadfastly, convinced that what He had promised more than 20 years ago He was able to perform. The Bible states that he was " strong in faith " because of his tenacious attitude.

[5]. DAVID

David is included as a man of faith in Heb.11:32. David clung to God in the face of a multitude of difficulties and sorrows.

- *He lost his wife Michal whom he had purchased with the foreskins of the Philistines.*
- *He had to separate from his best friend Jonathan.*
- *Saul persistently hounded him .*
- *In order to escape Saul and obtain refuge amongst the Philistines he feigned madness.*
- *He settled in Ziklag - a city given to him by the Philistines. Eventually the Philistines refused to have him in their army.*
- *David came to Ziklag only to find the city burned down and loved ones taken captives.*
- *His own men turned against him. He lost everything.*

In the face of these calamities he clung to God.

1 Sam 30:6

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. (KJV)

David encouraged himself in the Lord.

[6]. SAMSON

Judg 16:28-30

28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. 29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. 30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. (KJV)

Samson is also mentioned in the gallery of faith in Heb.11. (See Heb.11:32). Although he lost his eyes and his hair - he never quit.

[7]. JOB

Job lost his wealth and his children. Amidst these trials he worshiped the Lord.

Job 1:20

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, (KJV)

In his perseverance he guarded his confession.

Job 1:22

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. (KJV)

Job 2:10 c

10 ... In all this did not Job sin with his lips. (KJV)

He continued to trust God.

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. (KJV)

Job lost his wealth, health and children but never gave up.

Job 23:11

My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. (KJV)

[8]. PAUL

People of faith never quit. The apostle Paul relates his trial and tribulations in 2 Cor. 4:8-10.

2 Cor 4:8-10

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (KJV)

He elaborates in 2 Cor. 11:23-33. He was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19) - but he never quit. He said - ... woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! 1 Cor 9:16 (KJV)

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:14

(KJV)

QUITTING IS A LACK OF FAITH

[A]. LOTS DAUGHTERS

Lot's daughters did not have Abraham's tenacity - they did not believe that God would give them a posterity hence they slept with their father to conceive. (Gen.19:32-38).

[B]. ELIJAH

1 King 19:4

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. (KJV)

After a spectacular display of power on Mount Carmel, Elijah was thrown into the valley of discouragement by his lack of faith to deal with Jezebel. Elijah quit and hence lost his ministry to Elisha.

GUIDELINES WHILE PERSEVERING

(1). GUARD YOUR MOUTH

Job 1:22

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. (KJV)

(2). ENSURE THAT YOU ARE WORD BASED

Ask yourself - Is this in the will of God? Don't persevere in something that is unscriptural

Ps 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (KJV)

(3). MAINTAIN A RIGHT-STANDING WITH GOD

Deal with unconfessed sins / unbiblical relationships

Ps 34:17

The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. (KJV)

(4). CONTINUE PRAYING

(Acts 12:5 / Luke 11:5-8)

(5). ANTICIPATE:

This is an attitude of expectancy which is an act of faith (seeing before receiving).

Ps 62:5

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. (KJV)

(6). TRUST GOD:

The attitude of knowing that God is able to meet your need.

Ps 37:5

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. (KJV)

(7). WORSHIP HIM:

Worship included all activities that express one's love for God.

Job 1:20

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, (KJV)

HAZARDOUS ACTION

F - FIRM CONFESSION

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FAITH IS AN ACT OF RISK

Illustration - Faith on the wire

Imagine, if you will, a wire stretched between the bank building and the city hall on the square in our town. A lone individual stands atop the bank building and announces his intent to walk across the wire to the other building. Of course, a crowd has gathered below because what he intends is a bit strange (needless to say). The tightrope walker asks the crowd if they believe he can make it across. They nod in assent (who would be dumb enough to try without a reasonable chance?) Carefully, slowly he teeters his way across almost falling. Reaching the other side he holds up a wheelbarrow and asks the crowd if they think he could push it across before him. Some nod in assent. Some shrug their shoulders in response. The tightrope walker then singles out a man and yells down to him, " Sir, do you think I can make it? " The response is affirmative so the walker says, " Then prove your faith by riding in the wheelbarrow."

[James S. Hewett: Illustrations Unlimited - page 190]

Risk

Any action that carries with it the chance or danger of loss of life, livelihood, reputation etc..It is damaged suffered to reach, please or serve God. People of faith lead an hazardous lifestyle.

Acts 15:26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

Examples : -

BLIND BARTIMAEUS [MARK 10:47-52]

In Bible times a special garment was supplied by the authorities to prove the authenticity of one's physical handicap. This garment identified a beggar as a person with a genuine handicap and therefore worthy to receive alms. Blind Bartimaeus had such a garment. That garment was his cherished and coveted possession. It was his meal ticket - his livelihood. When he heard Jesus call, Bartimaeus cast aside his garment. He cast aside his livelihood. Bartimaeus knew that he could not come back for that garment - someone else would easily pick it up and fake an handicap to live by begging. Bartimaeus risked his livelihood. This act of risk expresses his undoubted belief in Jesus' ability to heal him. Jesus saw his risk and said " *Your faith has made you whole.*"

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD [MARK 5: 24-34]

The woman with the issue of blood risked everything to approach Jesus in order to receive her healing. She had constant bleeding for 12 years. Anaemia (weak blood) is a recognized complication of chronic bleeding. Since medical treatment in those days was not as advanced as today I am certain that this woman was severely anaemic. Severe anaemia may be complicated by congestive cardiac failure(C.C.F). It is highly likely that this woman was in C.C.F. C.C.F. results in the debilitating symptom of breathlessness (dyspnoea) on exertion. Because of weakness (due to anaemia) and breathlessness (due to C.C.F.) she aimed to touch what was most accessible in her condition - the hem of His garment.

Because of Jesus' itinerant ministry and her poor physical condition, Jesus was inaccessible to her. In addition no one could escort her to Him because by Mosaic law she was unclean. His passing by that day was an opportunity of a lifetime.

She risked three things : -

Being a frail woman she risked being trampled to death - (a multitude followed Jesus).

She risked death by exertion.

By Jewish custom she was perpetually unclean (Lev.15:19-25). By mingling publicly, she risked excommunication and stoning. When she came near to Jesus she had to overcome another obstacle - next to Jesus was Jairus - the ruler of the synagogue who had the authority to sanction her stoning for breaking the law.

JESUS SEEING THE RISK SHE TOOK SAID, " YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WHOLE" (Mark4:34).

ELISHA

He burnt the implements of his trade leaving no avenue for his return to secular employment. He risked his career.

1King 19:20 / 21

20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? (KJV)

FOUR FISHERMEN CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

Matt 4:18-20

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. (KJV)

They risked their family business.

THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

The widow of Zarephath took the risk of sacrificing her last bit of food in the time of famine to the man of God. Sacrificial giving is an act of faith. It demonstrates that one believes in God's providential care.

See 1 Kings 17:8-16

DAVID

David risked going against Goliath with a sling and five stones.

See 1 Sam.17:40-50

PETER

Peter took the risk and walked on the water.

See Matt.14:22 -33

RAHAB

Rahab took the risk of securing the safety of the Israelite spies.

See Joshua 2:1-24

GIDEON

Gideon took the risk of going against the army of the Midianites with only 300 men.

See Judges 7:16-25

SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABED-NEGO

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego risked their lives by not bowing to the image made by the King.

See Dan.3:15-18

HEZEKIAH

Hezekiah took a risk by resisting Sennacherib (2 Chr.32:1-8).

Sennacherib had a record of unbroken success in his invasion of other countries.

Hezekiah resisted him because of his faith in God.

ESTHER

Esther took the risk of going before the king to intercede for the Jews.

Esth 4:16

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. (KJV)

GUIDELINES FOR TAKING A SUCCESSFUL RISK IN ANY VENTURE

[1]. MUST BE LOGOS BASED

i.e. risk must be based on the will of God. The Logos is the written Word - the revealed will of God. Uzza took the risk and touched the ark (2 Sam.6:6) - he died because his action was contrary to the will of God. King Saul took the risk of consulting with a familiar spirit to determine the will of God (2 Sam.6:6-7). The kingdom was taken from him and given to David (1 Sam.28:7-20).

[2]. MUST BE RHEMA BASED.

Rhema = The spoken Word - a quickening of the written Word by the Holy Spirit to a specific person for a specific situation. Jesus said, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel.....*" (Mark 16:15).

Yet it was not God's will for Paul to go to Asia to preach (Acts 16:6). The Lord revealed that the timing was not right to preach the gospel there.

Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal because he heard from God. *1 Kin.18:36d -and I have done all these things at your word.*

[3]. ONE MUST BE IN RIGHT-STANDING WITH GOD.

e.g. The sons of Sceva were not in right-standing with God (Acts 19:13-16). They took a risk in going against demons. The result was disgrace. When a person crosses the boundary of God's favour, risks under such circumstances gives one no protection against Satan.

Illustration : -

(1 Kin.2:36-46) Solomon ordered Shimei to stay within the boundary of Jerusalem. Solomon clearly explained that the day of Shimei crossed the boundary he would die. After a period of time, two of Shimei's slaves escaped from Jerusalem. Shimei forgot the restraining order imposed upon him and pursued his slaves. Solomon sentenced Shimei to death for violating his command.

Shimei took the risk of crossing the boundary of Jerusalem contrary to Solomon's will. This act of rebellion resulted in his not being in rightstanding with Solomon.

A Christian must know his moral and functional boundaries. When those boundaries are crossed he is not in right-standing with God. Risks taken when one is not in right-standing with God is dangerous.

SUMMARY

Israel's invasion of Jericho demonstrates all five principles of faith.

[1]. FIRM CONFESSION

Blowing of trumpets and shouting.

Josh 6:7-8,20

7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. 8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. (KJV)

[2]. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

They walked around Jericho in perfect obedience to God's commanded strategy - Josh.6:1-15

[3]. INSIGHTFUL LIFESTYLE

They shouted before the wall came down.

Josh 6:16

16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. (KJV)

Josh 6:20

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. (KJV)

[4]. TENACIOUS ATTITUDE

They went around Jericho 13 times.

See Josh.6:11-15

[5]. HAZARDOUS ACTION

They went against "mighty men of valour" (Josh.6:2), with an apparently foolish strategy.

