ZION

"A Journey of Faith"

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."(*Heb. 11:1*) "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:5) "And faith only comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."(Rom.10:17)

Faith only works when we believe and trust that God will keep His promises to us, and then our faith pleases God. "Because without faith it is impossible to please Him" *(Heb. 11:6)* and the more that we learn about God (from His Word), the more our faith grows and we become certain of the promises that He makes to us. True Biblical faith is always centered only on God's will and His word and is never self-centered. It must only be based on our belief, trust, and complete confidence in God and His Word only and not in the faith itself or the object of our faith. The faith life always looks at all things through God's Word and His unlimited ability to work out all things for our good *(Rom. 8:28)*.

The Parable of the Sower

The key to understanding all Scripture is to first know and faithfully study the Word of God (*Mark 4:1-20; key verse 13*). "And He said unto them, 'Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables?"¹¹ Faith is only possible when we are on God's plan, and stand on God's promise. It is useless to pray for increased faith until we have fulfilled the Biblical teachings and conditions of faith. It is equally useless to spend time in regrets and tears over past failures, which were due to our doubt and unbelief. "And the Lord said to Joshua: Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?" (*Jos. 7:10*). True Biblical Faith is as natural to right conditions of our soul as a flower is to a plant. And among those conditions, this is the first: (1) Find your place in God's plan for your life then begin to pursue it. And this is the second: (2) You must feed daily on God's promises (*Psalm 12:6*). When each of these conditions is fulfilled, your faith will grow and there is absolutely nothing which is impossible. A believing soul can "do all things" by faith with God's guidance (*Psa. 32:8*). "And Jesus answering saith unto them, 'Have faith in God."" (*Mark 11:22*)

¹ Moses: The Journey of Faith by Frederick Brotherton Meyer

And what is this kind of faith? It is not some inherent power or quality which is given only to certain people by virtue of which they are the only ones able to accomplish special results unrealized by others. It is rather the power of putting one's self and pride aside so that God may work unhindered through us. It is the attitude of our heart which having found the will of God, and being desirous of becoming a vessel for it, goes on to believe and expect that God will work out His divine purposes through us. It is, in brief, that capacity in which God uses us to our uttermost limit and we become a channel or vehicle by which He will bless mankind. This believer is a God-filled, God-moved, and God-possessed man; and the work which he does in the world is not his, but God's through him. There are, therefore, these necessary conditions of all true faith:

- The daily food of promise (The Word).
- An absolute assurance of being on God's plan for your life.
- The sense of helplessness and a complete surrender to God's will.
- Entire consecration and belief that He will work out His will through our heart and life.
- A daring to act in utter independence of our feelings on a faith which depends entirely on the faithfulness of God.

One of life's most difficult things is to keep on trusting God when He hasn't answered our prayers, and our faith weakens while waiting for a promise that He made to us. So continue to wait on God and don't ever give up! (*Psalm 28:6, 7*)

"My Testimony - It All Began in 1981" (Psalm 145: 4, 5)

- (1.) Zion is a testimony and a journey of faith, which began for me when I was saved, or Born Again (John 3: 1-15), in January 1981. This testimony is based only on God's faithfulness to the Jewish people and the Nation of Israel (Gen.17:1-8) and on the head of Joseph (Gen. 49:28) both of which are Biblical promises and will come to pass (I Kings 8:56) (Isa. 25:1) and it's not because of my own faith. However, it is God's purpose and will for my life to discover the oil of Israel (Acts 22: 14, 15) (Isa. 46:9-11).
- (2.) I was saved by faith. It is a gift of God (Eph.2: 8, 9) and (Rom. 10:8, 9, 13).
- (3.) "The Oil of Israel" I was led by faith to write the vision (Hab. 2: 2, 3) and a book "Prophecy Being Fulfilled." (Jer. 30:2)
- (4.) What the Bible (Word) declares comes only by faith (Rom. 10:17).
- (5.) The Bible (Word) speaks to us <u>by faith</u> (*Psa. 119: 105, 130*) and then we must "<u>by faith</u>" believe the promise (*Psa. 119:49*) and then <u>by faith</u> act on it. (*James 1: 22, 23*) because, "with faith there are no questions: and without faith there are no answers." Abraham is the father of our faith (*Gen. 15*) (*Rom. 4: 1-25*) (*Heb. 11:8-12*) and a true believer's spiritual <u>rest</u> can only be obtained <u>by faith</u> and God's grace (*Heb. 4:1-12*). And we are clearly warned by God about what doubt and unbelief brings (*Heb. 3: 7-19*). "Yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was also able to perform" (*Rom. 4: 20, 21*).
- (6.) Jim Spillman came to Zion Temple in Clawson, Michigan in February 1981 and taught on "The Oil of Israel" (<u>by faith</u> I believed *Rom. 10:17*) "The Great Treasure Hunt". God used Jim Spillman first in my life to deposit the vision for the oil in my heart.
- (7.) I then went by faith in 1983 to Israel where God gave me (*I Kings 8: 41-43*) and (*2 Chron. 6:32*, 33). I then prayed and asked God by faith for the oil! (Heb. 11: 1) then by faith I believed I received it (*Mark 11: 22-24*) and since then I have by faith believed it and spoken it and do not doubt it (*Heb. 10:38*).
- (8.) God called me full time to pursue the vision in December 1985 (Acts 22: 14, 15). Therefore, by faith I resigned my job, and by faith moved to Houston, Texas to start Zion; and wrote "The Oil of Israel, The Vision Book" (Hab. 2: 1-3) as God gave me the scriptures. I was very fearfull and very concerned that I would only write what God had wanted and was confirmed to me in the Bible. There is severe penalty if we add to or take away from His word (Deut. 29:18-20) (Rev. 22: 18, 19) so I wrote "The Vision Book" but only after I received (Jer. 23: 28, 29).

The Blessing of Joseph's Land:

"The Oil of Israel"

Jacob's Blessing "The Vision" *(Heb. 11:21)* by faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh). The last days (?) (Gen. 49: 1- *Gen. 49: 22-26) key verse = 25, 26* Joseph's Land will be blessed with oil. Moses' Blessings in *Deut. 33: 13-16* confirmed Jacob's blessing on Joseph's Land; for both his son's (show overlay of Biblical map with our Megiddo-Jezreel License). The rights of the first born were also given to the sons of Joseph *(I Chron.5: 1, 2).*

- (9.) By faith I then moved to Houston, Texas in 1986 to pursue the vision (*Heb. 11:8*) (*Neh. 2: 20*). After ten years of various faith trials and testing, (*Job 23:10*) and I just like Moses, tried very hard in my own strength to make the vision come to pass. When and how I wanted it to, and I failed (*Acts 7:24, 25*). Then God moved me back to Michigan to work with my son Mark (*Isa. 48:17*) and for Joan and me to take care of my mother (*Ex. 20:12*).
- (10.) Quoted from Hal Lindsey's book, "Faith for Earth's Final Hour" is, "one of life's most difficult things is to keep on trusting the Lord when He delays answering our faith. Yet this is one of the most necessary aspects to develop spiritual faith." I personally experienced this delay after I returned from Houston to Michigan in 1996. Within the next two years, and in 1998, God began to place in my heart once again the desire to become involved again in oil exploration in Israel. I really I didn't want to because of the previous long trials and tests (*Psa. 11:5*) of faith (15 years) in Texas, but God gave me the scriptures to go to Israel and He confirmed it to my wife Joan (*Ruth 3:18*) for me to go to Israel (*Judges 6, 7:15*). By Faith, then I went to Israel, and the rest of the "Journey of Faith" story and these prophecies by Jacob and Moses are now being fulfilled "by faith" in Israel (see www.zionoil.com).

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"Prophecy Being Fulfilled" (Jer. 30:2) By John Brown