

GHS Module 17
Tactics of Spiritual Warfare
Part 3

Enemies of Faith

Overview: Heb 6:12 AMPC In order that you may not grow disinterested and become [spiritual] sluggards, but imitators, behaving as do those **who through faith** (by their leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) and by practice of **patient endurance and waiting** are [now] inheriting the promises

A. What is Faith?

1. Definitions.

- a) Heb 11:1 KJV Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- b) Heb 11:1 AMPC Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, **the title deed**) of the things [we] hope for, being **the proof of things [we] do not see** and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].
- c) Heb 6:12 AMPC Faith is the leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness.

2. Faith is believing.

- a) Faith is believing what the Bible says because you believe that it is God's Word.
- b) Faith is believing, speaking and acting on the Word of God.
- c) Mark 5:36 Faith is trusting God despite all the contradictory circumstances.

3. Faith is continuing.

- a) Faith is continuing to rely on God even if you do not understand.
- b) Faith is never giving up on God's promise that He will either do for you what He said that He would do or that He will give you something better.
- c) John 8:31, 32 Faith is continuing in the Word until it sets you free.

B. Three Enemies of Faith.

1. Unbelief.

- a) Mark 7:9 This is a rejection of the Word of God to maintain one's own beliefs or traditions.
- b) Mark 4:15 Satan has stolen the Word out of the person's heart.
- c) Heb 3:12 The person now has a heart of unbelief.

2. Doubt.

- a) Doubt is really a person's response to "Has God said?"
- b) Doubt typically does not so much reflect unbelief in the Word, as it does the **lack of confidence** in the promise giving the existing circumstances.
- c) Examples: Does this apply me? Do I have enough faith? Will God answer my prayers?

3. Fear.

- a) Fear does not try to attack the Word of God in a contradictory way.
- b) Fear focuses on what will happen in the future if the Prayer of Faith does not work for you.
- c) Fear focuses on the current circumstances and on past failures

C. Three Enemies of Faith's Action Plans (FAPs).

1. Extremism.

- a) Extreme deviations from the Fruit of the Spirit (FOS).
Extremism is a major deviation from the FOS in your behavior or lifestyle.
Gal 5:22, 23 Our Lord is the God of moderation and discipline as is shown in the FOS.

b) Lust.

The devil is the god of lust (driving extreme desires).

1Jo 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust can be for anything. Examples are sex, running, competition, sugar, shoes, cars, etc. Lust is like a spiritual addiction. The person is actually being driven by the demons.

c) The driving temptations of the devil.

Pro 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

The devil will keep tempting a person to more and more extremes; not satisfied with an inch, he wants the whole ruler (i.e. 12 inches).

The devil does not really care what you do as long as you do it at his bidding and do it to excess. He wants you on a swing that is out of your control.

2. Foolishness.

a) Foolishness is a form of extremism, stretching the promises of God into ungodly areas.

b) Foolishness is taking the promises of God and applying them to the extreme into areas for which they were never intended or which are beyond the scope of the promises or beyond your current level of faith muscles (i.e., experience or maturity).

c) Examples.

- Using Mark 11:24 to claim a specific person as your spouse or for any other purpose.
- Deliberately writing a check with insufficient funds in the account and praying that God will miraculously cover it.
- Praying to own a specific business or home, then entering into a business contract without any idea from where the funds are coming even though your previously greatest financial manifestation was praying in \$500 to go to a Christian convention.
- Praying for a Mercedes sports car when you have no money and no car.
- Writing a check as an offering when there is no money in the bank to cover it
- Doing a forty day water only fast without being directed by Lord to do so.
- Spending so much time in prayer that your health is affected.

3. Presumption.

a) Presumption is standing in faith on the promise of one Scripture while executing a FAP which contradicts another Scripture. It is throwing yourself wholeheartedly on one promise while ignoring the spirit of the law and/or other contradictory or modifying Scriptures.

b) Presumption is tempting or testing the Lord to see if He will keep His Word. Apart from violating the Word, it is based in fear or pride.

Luk 4:12 Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

c) Examples.

- Quitting your job because you have prayed for a new job; or after a good interview; or you simply believe that God will supply your needs **but** if you do not work you should not eat.
- Someone prayed for your healing, so you quit going to dialysis because you believe that you have been healed by the stripes of Jesus even though you are still going to see the doctor **but** you need to be obedient to legal authority.
- Playing with snakes because Mark 16:18 says you can pick up snakes without harm. **but** "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord your God."
- Drinking poison to show off or eating bad food because you have blessed your food even though you know it is bad and you have other food which you can substitute.