

# Thinking, Speaking And Acting In Faith

## Thinking in faith

Our faith must express itself in our thoughts. We must *continually train* our minds to think in agreement with the written Word of God. Hebrews 5:14 relates to this when it refers to us knowing and using the solid food of the Word of God continually: ***“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*** Also, we must continually retrain our minds to rely on God (see Proverbs 3:5-6).

## Defeating worry and fears by faith in Jesus Christ

Each Christian faces different battles in this life. But most Christians have to fight temptations to worry and fear about various real or imagined problems. If your problem is with worry and associated anxiety or nervousness, you need to meditate often on verses such as Psalm 91, Matthew 6:25-34, John 14:1-3, 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7, Hebrews 13:5-6 and 1 Peter 5:7. Matthew 6:25 and 31-34 states: ***“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?...Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*** 1 Peter 5:7 declares: ***“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*** We must not only meditate on these verses, but continually aim to do what they say.

If your problem is with fear, you must meditate on verses such as Psalm 27:1, 34:4, 56:3-4, 62:6-8, 118:6, Isaiah 12:2, 41:10 and Timothy 1:7. Psalm 56:3-4 declares that whenever we are tempted by fear or fall into it, we must willingly focus on trusting God: ***“Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me”*** Isaiah 41:10 says: ***“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”***

Also, do not be afraid of Satan or demons. Remember 1 John 4:4 emphasises: ***“because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*** Psalm 34:4 expresses what God wants to do as we seek Him: ***“I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”*** God desires us to conquer worries and fears through Jesus Christ, His power and Word.

## Speaking in faith

Jesus' words in Mark 11:22-23 reveal our faith will express itself in what we say: ***“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.’”***

Many people contradict the faith in their hearts by what they say with their mouths. For example, they ask God for wisdom and guidance and then later say to other people, “I am not sure whether God will give me wisdom about this matter.” James 1:5-8 shows such doubting can very often result in God not giving the needed wisdom: ***“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*** In my above example, true faith should express itself in our words by expressions such as “I am sure God is going to give me wisdom about this matter in His way and His time.”

We believers should be aiming to speak in faith all the time. We should be saying things such as, “God is my strength. He is empowering me today to do His will. He is helping me to...He is ministering to me His healing power and wisdom.” Such faith words in God are based on the following specific promises in His written Word: Psalm 18:1-2, 27:1, 46:1, Philippians 4:13, Zechariah 4:6, Ephesians 3:20, Psalm 23, 2 Timothy 2:1, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Mark 16:18, 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Timothy 1:7 and James 1:5-8.

The Bible contains multiple verses which stress the importance of making sure we speak godly words in agreement with the general principles of the Scriptures and avoid all types of speech contrary to these Scriptural principles. Refer to verses such as Psalm 39:1, Proverbs 6:2, 15:4, 16:24, 18:21, 21:23, Matthew 12:34, 12:37, Mark 11:22-23, Ephesians 4:29 and Revelation 12:11. Psalm 39:1 says: ***“I said, ‘I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue...”*** Matthew 12:37 states: ***“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*** Ephesians 4:29 says: ***“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”***

In the specific matter of exercising faith for miracles which God has shown are His will, our words must agree with the faith in our hearts. This is seen in relation to the marvellous miracles about which God led Moses to trust Him. In relation to the miracles of the plagues of blood, frogs, livestock, hail, locusts and death to the firstborn, Exodus 7:14 to 11:18 records that Moses *said* to Pharaoh these miracles were *definitely going to happen*. Refer especially to Exodus 7:16, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13, 10:3 and 11:4.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 8:1-4 says: ***“And the Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedchamber, on your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.’”***”

## Faith ruling your thoughts and words

If you are a born-again Christian, do not allow yourself to think or say such attitudes as the following which are contrary to the verses quoted after them:

- “Satan is too powerful for me.” 1 John 4:4 says: **“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”**
- “Satan forces me to sin.” 1 Corinthians 10:13 states: **“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”**
- “I must continually worry about my problems because God does not really care.” 1 Peter 5:7 declares: **“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”**
- “My flesh is too powerful for me. It forces me to sin.” Galatians 5:16 reveals if we walk in the Holy Spirit, the flesh will not rule us: **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”**
- “I am such a failure. I can never be successful in doing God’s will.” You cannot do God’s will by your own strength, but 2 Corinthians 2:14 declares: **“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ...”**
- “I will never overcome my anger turns, fears or other wrong habits.” Romans 6:14 states: **“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”**
- “God is not interested in me as much as He is in ‘so and so’” Romans 2:11 says: **“For there is no partiality with God.”**
- “Because I sinned, God immediately abandoned me.” Hebrews 13:5 states: **“...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’.”**
- “God cannot stand me. He does not accept me at all.” Ephesians 1:6 declares: **“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”**
- “God is angry with me nearly all the time.” 1 John 2:2 reveals Jesus is our propitiation: **“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins...”** Propitiation refers to removing God’s anger against us and our sins.
- “My sins are too serious for God to forgive.” Colossians 2:13 speaks of God forgiving all our sins not just the ones we regard as less serious: **“...He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”** In Matthew 12:31 and Mark 3:28-29, Jesus taught that all sins can be forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
- “God will not supply my real needs.” Philippians 4:19 says: **“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ.”**
- “I cannot do what God has called me to do in my family, job, ministry or life.” Philippians 4:13 states: **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

Sadly, many times *like a parrot*, we can quote verses such as those above but not really believe them. One aspect of our walk with God is to turn continually from unbelief to faith in Him.

## Acting in faith

The Bible is very clear that a sincere living faith will express itself in our actions. James 2:17-20 says: ***“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have the works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”*** True faith repeatedly *results* in actions of love towards Jesus Christ and other people. Faith in Jesus Christ produces the *fruit* of hatred of what He hates – sin of every type – and in abandoning known sin.

This acting in faith can also relate to praying for miracles. For example in Joshua 6:1-20, we see Joshua and his soldiers obeyed exactly what God told them when they were trusting Him to miraculously make the walls of Jericho collapse as He had promised. The Israelites did what He commanded, as recorded in Joshua 6:2-5.<sup>2</sup> The actions of the Israelites in response to God’s specific revelation of His will through His spoken Word, were results of their faith in Him. Hebrews 11:30 records their faith: ***“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.”*** Our actions need to be consequences of our faith response to God’s revealed will. For other examples of praying according to God’s will, as revealed by the Bible or the Holy Spirit, refer to my book “PRAYING WITH POWERFUL FAITH”.

## The shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16 teaches faith in Jesus Christ is like a shield with which a soldier defends himself from the deadly arrows or javelins of his enemies: ***“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”*** It is only as we believe God and His Word and trustingly surrender various parts of our lives to Him that Satan and demons will not be able to wound us with their spiritual attacks. Satanic temptations in the areas of fear, worry, anxiety, bitterness, resentment, sexual immorality, selfishness, pride, feeling rejected and so on will only hurt us if we are not acting with faith in God.

Ask yourself, “In what area(s) of my life does Satan attack me and penetrate my spiritual defences?” Whatever your answer is reveals in what areas you do not trust God enough. You have not fully surrendered these areas to Him. I have known Christians who have tried to resist the devil without fully submitting or surrendering to God the areas of their lives about which they are resisting the devil. James 4:7 reveals we must submit or surrender to God before we can successfully resist Satan: ***“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”***

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<sup>2</sup> Joshua 6:2-5 says: ***“And the Lord said to Joshua: ‘See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of ram’s horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. Then it shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him’.”***

## Bible Study Questions

1. How can we defeat worries and fears through Jesus Christ?
2. What does speaking in faith involve?
3. What does acting in faith mean?