



Grace
Convention
Centre



Malaysia

ACTS of grace

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Senior Pastor: PASTOR HENRY K. PILLAI

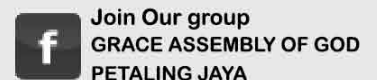
HEROES OF HEBREWS 11

Part. 1 Pastor Henry

Negative faith operates in fear and bondage. Positive faith operates in love and freedom.

Faith has nothing to do with our five senses. It's our five senses and more. So if people say faith is nonsense, it is true because we are ushered into a realm beyond the senses. Hebrews 11:1 says: **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** ➤

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On the other hand, science limits itself to the five senses. If it's not in the realm of the five senses, it's no more science. So in science, there is no such thing as hate, no such thing as anger. There is no such thing as forgiveness or bitterness or revenge because these things cannot be examined or tested by the five senses. But you and I know that love, anger, hatred, unforgiveness, joy, and peace - all of these are the real issues in life. So I am challenging you to step out of the realm of the senses that limit us. When dealing with God, we have got to step into the realm of faith; believing in things that we don't see.

Faith can be positive or negative. God operates in the realm of **positive faith**. The enemy operates in the realm of **negative faith**. But both positive faith and negative faith can destroy. For example, some Christians are afraid to eat in a particular shop because they look up and they see a dragon on the ceiling and they say they cannot eat there because the devil is there. Firstly, the devil is not there because he is not omnipresent. Secondly, the devil does not live in a Chinese restaurant. So the Christian lives in fear; I cannot eat this; I cannot do this, I cannot do that. On the other hand, you have a non-Christian Chinese who believes that if he does not show signs of the dragon in his business, he will not prosper. So he is afraid as well. He is afraid if he **does not** do it and the Christian is afraid if he **does**. So both are operating in the realm of fear and this is not from God.

Sometime ago, in our early ministry, some people in the congregation said you couldn't wear batik and you couldn't wear jade and you couldn't use the 20 ringgit-note because they saw something there. So they would not carry it or use it. Can you imagine living in that kind of fear? So this is negative faith. **Negative faith operates in fear and bondage. Positive faith operates in love and freedom.** God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love and a mind that is under control or a mind that is self-disciplined. He has not given us fear. So when it comes to the things of God and Jesus Christ, we do not operate out of fear, we operate out of freedom and love. Somehow, the religious spirit keeps coming and we become slaves to it again. There is nothing you can do to save yourself because Jesus has done it all. There is nothing you can do to cause Jesus to love you less because He loves you just the same. There is nothing you can do or undo to get Him to love you more because His love is constant. He doesn't change, we change.

Faith is to know that when God says, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**" and we believe it. Though my senses may not agree with me, I still believe it and that elevates me. It catapults me into the realm of the Spirit and of the eternal things and I begin to experience the 'positiveness' of it all and the blessings. You will not see faith. You will not be able to touch it but it is there. Faith - it's not rational.

For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:2-3)

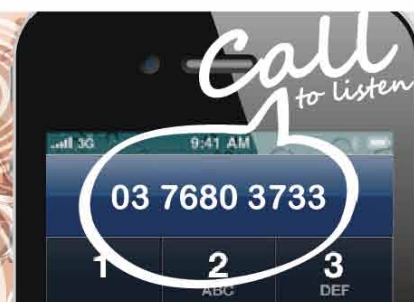
People can make fun of us but the things of God are stupid and foolish to the men of the world. It also contradicts evolution and the teaching of Darwinism. It tells us that by faith

we believe God spoke. He spoke everything into existence. God designed it and He spoke it into existence as He framed the invisible and the visible world. And the foundations of the earth were laid. When we speak about foundation, we think it is underneath, but God's word speaks of a foundation which is like a frame, a grip of God's hand around the planetary system. That he says is the foundation. We get it all upside down. We think foundation is the centre of the Earth. But He called this the foundation - the sun, moon, stars, everything that relate to planet Earth, God calls it foundation.

How did these things come about? God spoke it into being. They were framed by the word of God. So the things which are seen were made of things that were not seen. Before anything happened there was God, there was Jesus. And He spoke all things into being. It was created by Him and for Him and for this we need faith. We need the grace of God to believe it. If you do not receive this grace then you will not have this faith to believe. But, God has given all men a measure of faith and a measure of grace. So none of us can say, "I cannot believe", or "I won't believe".

By faith, Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. In his right standing with God, he made a sacrifice that God would accept, unlike Cain who offered what he presumed God should accept and his attitude was **I give anything anyhow** because he thought God was a beggar and that God depended on him. No. God was just testing the heart of this man. His brother, Abel offered an accepted sacrifice and for that he was called a prophet and he became an example for us to follow. Even today the Abel that died still speaks on how to approach God and make sacrifices to Him. He still speaks. Why did Abel do that? We are told he did it by faith. That means it was beyond his senses, beyond his understanding, beyond his rationale. He did something beyond man's understanding and that was what pleased God.

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