

REINHARD  
BONNKE

FAITH  
THE LINK

WITH  
GOD'S POWER

Faith – the Link with God’s Power  
English USA  
Copyright © Full Flame GmbH 2003  
ISBN 978-3-935057-29-5

Revised Edition 8, Printing 1

Previously published in the United Kingdom by  
Sovereign World Ltd  
ISBN 1-85240-256-3  
and  
in the U.S.A by Thomas Nelson, Inc  
ISBN 0-7852-7469-3

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United States of America

Typeset by Roland Senkel  
Cover design by Isabelle Brasche  
Inside colour pages by Lisa Parkes  
Photographs by Peter van den Berg, Rob Birkbeck

Published by:

E-R Productions LLC  
P.O. Box 593647  
Orlando, Florida 32859  
U.S.A.

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## Foreword

This book comes to you with a fresh angle on the subject of faith. It offers profound insights into its trials and triumphs, and puts the spotlight on God's character and His Word. Here is just one brief example of how Scripture illustrates the relationship between faith and feelings.

When danger looms large, fear is inevitable. When our body chemistry sets up a sense of impending disaster, when we suffer heavy blows and our circumstances are oppressive and dark, or when pain and illness sit with us at the fireside, fear and alarm are a natural response. What, then, does faith do? It takes the shackles from our ankles; we challenge the paralyzing grip and go ahead anyway. With God, fear will not stop us – we overcome it.

*Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*  
(Psalm 42:5)

*Blessings unfold with each chapter, the focus being firmly set on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.* (Hebrews 12:2)

It is my desire, through the medium of this book, to teach the never-changing faith principles revealed in the Word of God. They have been proven in my own 50 years of following Jesus against the backdrop of decades of front-line evangelism across the world. The same principles have been tried and tested by my colleague, the Reverend George Canty from the United Kingdom. His scholarly collaboration with me as I prepared the manuscript is something for which I am deeply grateful.

*Reinhard Bonnke*  
December 2002

# Part 1

## Chapter 1

# Faith from Minus to Plus

**T**he Bible was written for people with no real faith. We all begin with a minus. If we have no faith, reading the Bible produces it, and if we have some faith we get more the same way. We do not acquire faith first and bring it to Scripture. Scripture encourages faith. *Faith comes by hearing the Word of God* (Romans 10:17).

Many who do not believe do not read the Bible. They are sick, and leave the medicine in the bottle, tightly corked. People without faith should be warned that if they open the Bible they are likely to finish up as believers.

The Bible brings us to the Cross. People do not start moving mountains until they have been to Mount Calvary. They could not even move a molehill – or a mole. Real faith does not start at the university. We will have less if we go there without any! If we have not been to where Christ saves not even a Doctor of Theology will do.

The starting pistol is fired at the green hill far away outside the city wall. From there, we *press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 3:14).

Walking in doubt is like going back to a Victorian-age, London pea-souper fog. We need radar, and faith provides it in this world of uncertainty. *The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith* (Romans 1:17). Believe God! It is life's greatest adventure.

Chapter by chapter, I want to offer knowledge and experience across the area of faith as widely as I can. Whether people have traveled far along the road, or just beginning, or have not even started, I want to come alongside them and share treasures with them that I have collected over a lifetime. In this chapter, I pull an assortment out of the treasure chest; but just read on.

### The Plus Life

One morning Jesus walked along the shingled edge of Lake Galilee and beckoned to a few local fishermen. He said, “*Follow me*” (Matthew 4:19). At that moment, everything began for them. Everything had only been fish, and then it became people, action, and changing world history, with ever-increasing faith, ever-increasing effects.

===== *You cannot start moving mountains until you have been to Mount Calvary.* =====  
 Jesus did not call them, you, or me, to switch off our smiles and to wear sackcloth. It was not to turn people into stick-in-the-muds. He was not so conventional Himself! The disciples caught His bubbling spirit, which challenged the stuffy establishment. He showed them new things, especially faith and love, and by them they conquered the world.

### God the Deliverer

The primary truth about God is that He is the Deliverer, the Emancipator, and the Savior. He is God only to the free. Faith is a venture that turns life into an adventure.

Doubts get us nowhere. They are mooring ropes. Believing God means we cast off, like ships designed for riding the high seas and going somewhere. Faith inspires. Doubt paralyzes. Faith

says, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13). Unbelief does nothing. Faith in God is exciting. Unbelief is depressing. You will find it so as you read on.

We become what we were born to be only when we are born-again by faith in Christ Jesus. Christ said, “*If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*” (John 8:36). The world’s greatest book on freedom is the Bible. The very idea of freedom came

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*We become what we were born to be only when we are born-again.*

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from the Bible, not from Greece or Rome. Read it! Remember, God made the first free nation ever seen on earth, Israel, and He wants to put a sense of liberty in our very soul. God opposes tyranny. The gospel makes us the freeborn sons of God.

People have talked about those who bury themselves in religion – well, in religion maybe. But Christianity is Christ, and you cannot call Christ a religion! He is the resurrection and the life. Christ said, “*If you abide in My word ... and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:31-32). He is no deceiver. Millions have found themselves gloriously free through the gospel. His words do not stifle us with rules and commandments. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. The Sermon on the Mount describes what Christians are naturally, what they want to do, not what people should be like.

### Bondage is Truth corrupted

There is a warning that Christ gave us over and over again, which is particularly important to those just beginning the Christian life – or anybody else for that matter, and that warning tells us beware of false prophets. They are not all in the cults either, although there are over 5,000 sects in the USA alone. Many are a threat to the concept of liberty.

By definition a cult means control. *By their fruits you will know them* (Matthew 7:20). Once they get hold of you, they keep you under their thumb, control your money, what you do, where you go, what you think, and who your friends are. Their evil effect is to destroy self-reliance and breed dependency. Their leaders are not shepherds. They are wardens, religious policemen.

Some teach the Scriptures, but turn Bibles into chains, standing truth on its head, like the Scribes and Pharisees. They use the gospel of deliverance to bind their converts, falsifying the very spirit and purpose of the message. There are sad souls who lack true faith and accept handcuffs to gain a sense of security.

Jesus was not a spiritual policeman. He did not discipline the disciples. That is not what disciple means. He never ordered them about, interfered, or dictated in daily affairs. They came and went as and when they wished. It was all left to their wisdom and discretion. That is how Christ deals with us. Give Jesus our lives and He makes them our own.

*After Christ rose from the dead, the disciples began brightening up the world with the light of the gospel.*

If we blindly obey a church leader, we are still responsible before God for what we do. No man should appropriate to himself authority over others. Scripture forbids leaders *to be lords over those entrusted to [them]* (1 Peter 5:3). Jesus said, *“One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren”* (Matthew 23:8). Truth comes from the Word of God, which sets us free. God is a deliverer. Laws, like the Sabbath, were made for us, not us for the laws.

## A million Candle Power

When Paul the apostle was preaching in an upstairs room in Troas *there were many lamps* there (Acts 20:8). The Bible writers have a way of saying that kind of thing and yet convey a spiritual truth. There were two kinds of lights there, the oil lamps, and the room full of Christians who were the true many lamps.

That is what believers are. *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord* (Ephesians 5:8). Believers are stars; unbelievers are black holes from which light never escapes. Faith makes us *children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom [we] shine as lights in the world* (Philippians 2:15).

A Christian believer needs a church, just as a candle needs a candlestick, a tree needs soil, and an electric light bulb needs a socket. Without a candlestick, a candle cannot stand; without soil, a tree cannot grow; without a socket, an electric bulb cannot shine. Neither can you. Without fellowship, a Christian can neither stand, nor grow, nor shine.

Jesus does not put you on the shelf. He has a special niche especially for each of us in His edifice. He said, *“You are the light of the world”* – single lamps and also many lights together. It was a single lamp that He said should be put on a lampstand, so that *it gives light to all who are in the house* (Matthew 5:15). One candle power for one house. But He also said, *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden”* (Matthew 5:14). A city does not have one-candle power but a million-candle power. When Christ said, *“You are the light of the world”* it was a plural ‘you’. He brings many lights together, people combining, and mingling flame with flame.

The *city set on a hill* is a church. In Troas, there were many lamps together, because it was a big room. The world is a big place and many lamps are needed. A children’s hymn says, “you in your small corner and I in mine,” but there is more than dark corners, there is a dark planet. The whole globe needs light. There is no light where there is no faith in God.

Spiritually, the world today is like Genesis 1:2, *darkness was upon the face of the deep. But God said ‘Let there be light’ and there was light.* God is saying today, “Let there be light.”

*God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,  
who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the  
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus  
Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)*

After Christ rose from the dead, the disciples began brightening up the world with the light of the gospel. We should do the same. The establishment complained that they had *filled Jerusalem with [their] doctrine* (Acts 5:28), and a little later it was said, “*These who have turned the world upside down have come here too*” (Acts 17:6). That is exactly what God said He would do. Psalm 146:9 says that *the way of the wicked he turns upside down.* The way of unbelief is upside down, but God turns it the right way up. That is my job and yours. We are God’s agents for putting a topsy-turvy world upright.

### Business in great Waters

When Christ beckoned to His first followers, they were unknown, quietly getting on with their own business – fishing on a lake. But He sent them out *to do business on great waters* (Psalm 107:23), and *to the uttermost parts of the earth* (Acts 1:8). In Scripture, the sea represents nations, the waves roaring and

turbulent. Christ once stilled the storm on the waters. He sends us to fish in every nation, *though the waters of the world roar and be troubled*, as the Psalmist says in Psalm 46:3. The Lord speaks peace to the nations.

Jesus does not call us just to sit in church and vegetate as if in a rest home. We have a job to do, not a hobby, but the biggest job of all is to change the world. It is a joint effort, together and with Christ. He said, *"I will build my church"* (Matthew 16:18).

### The Ax

The church is Christ's battle-ax. Every ax has a handle, a head, and a cutting edge – the handle for the handler, the head for weight, and the sharp edge to do the work. Whether we make the work of God possible by the thousand jobs that must be done, or give weight to the work by our support, or are the attacking and cutting edge of evangelism, we are all vitally needed.

I myself, Reinhard Bonnke, happen to have no churches, but depend on churches. They give the weight to what I do, and my team looks after the endless matters that must be organized; yet we are one in the eyes of the Master.

### The Orchestra

I never attempt anything alone. A soloist needs accompaniment, perhaps a whole orchestra. All of our work has to be arranged, whether campaigns, literature, TV, films, books, or whatever. There are hundreds and even tens of thousands of back-up players in tune with my aims, with special gifts, abilities, or with their prayers and gifts, and I work along with their same aims and purposes. Every melody needs harmonizing, and is perfected and enriched by the qualities of other instruments, musical talents,

and choreography. I never go to any country except when groups of churches ask me to go. We must all work together.

No man seemed stronger in faith than Paul the apostle. But he heard that in Rome, Christians had appeared, and he wrote to them and said, *“I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me”* (Romans 1:11). Mutual faith. Each of us is like one sheet of paper that cannot stand on its own edge, without falling over. But a ream of paper is a block of 500 sheets, all able to stand on edge comfortably together, supporting one another. Every believer needs support. The world will not help. The world is no friend to the friends of Jesus.

### The precious Oils

Speaking of supporting each other, the Bible uses a very striking explanation and illustration – oil! We should first understand that oil in Scripture always represents the Holy Spirit. When Scripture talks about oil in lamps, anointing oil, cosmetic oil, or perfumed oil, it is pictorial language for the work of the Holy Spirit.

The idea originates from Psalm 133:1-2, *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head.* It was referring to the ceremony of pouring special perfumed oil upon the head of the High Priest of Israel.

Why is unity like oil? It is because oil represents the Holy Spirit, and He brings unity. That is the link, and two verses, Ephesians 4:3,13, use the idea. Verse 3 states, *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* Unity through the oil

of the Spirit poured upon us is like the oil poured on the head in Psalm 133. Then in Ephesians 4:12-13, it says, *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith*. So faith also comes into it; faith, the Holy Spirit, and unity all play their part.

Now Scripture does not say, “Become united, be one!” It says, “*keep the unity!*” We cannot keep what does not exist, but unity does exist. We only have to maintain it. That unity is the presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer. This fact should be demonstrated. We are one in Him from the moment we believe.

### Commitment

Now, nobody can have unity on his own. You cannot be married on your own. There is no such thing as an independent believer. You cannot have unity by belonging nowhere. Some say that they belong to the universal church, but are committed nowhere in particular. Well, it means that nobody can rely upon these people. Churches cannot be built on floaters.

Every born-again believer is *in Christ* together with all others. *There is one body and one Spirit*, says Ephesians 4:4 – the great body of believers in heaven and on earth. Everything in the New Testament points to unity. We are to bear one another’s burdens, for example. How can we do that if we have nothing to do with other Christians?

The New Testament always assumes that all believers are attached to one another locally. The epistle to the Ephesians is all about the church, and everything said is to the whole church, not to isolated individuals. It is the whole church, for example, that must have *the whole armor of God* (Ephesians 6:11), for it is a fighting force, an army.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity. He is the bonding element. This bonding is a wonderful effect of faith in Christ. It is creative. It brings about a new kind of oneness not even known in the closest of earthly families.

### Many Lights

Next, oil represents light. The great national temple in Jerusalem had a famous golden lamp-stand. The seven-branched menorah is described in Exodus chapters 25, 35, 37, 39. The Romans carried it off when they plundered Jerusalem in 70 ad, and it is depicted on the Arch of Titus seen daily by tourists in Rome. The menorah is the badge of modern Israel.

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*Every melody needs  
harmonizing, and  
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This lamp-stand or lamp standard had neither joint nor weld, being made out a single piece of gold. Each arm had a lamp – a mere wick, and the oil came from a single source, the central stem. The seven lights shone as one light, and had itself no shadow. Jesus talked about oil in lamps, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The apostle John in the book of Revelation describes Christ standing among seven golden lamp-stands, each lamp standard representing a church. Also, he said that before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5). The seven flames of each candelabrum had a single fuel source – the Spirit of God, casting a single light. There is one Spirit as we read in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, though manifested in many gifts, ministries, and operations.

If believers shine, and bring a little brightness into the drab world, it is by the Holy Spirit; otherwise they are dead wicks.

A wick cannot shine without fuel, no matter how hard it tries. Christ sets hearts aglow, and we can blaze for God. Nobody just believes. If we believe, we shine.

The world never gets the hang of things, and, in ignorance of the reality behind Christians, sees them only as religious enthusiasts, as mere religion pushers, Bible punchers, or religious freaks. This is all the world sees. Unbelievers are like sheep that cannot understand why human beings listen to music. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is not given to the world. That makes unbelievers basically different, almost alien, as if they were from Mars.

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However, one candle is lit from another candle. The fire, the light of God, is transmitted. That is why we are here. Paul the apostle spent only a few days introducing the gospel to the people of Thessalonica, but a little later in a letter to them Paul congratulated their enthusiasm saying, “*from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth . . . in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything*” (1 Thessalonians 1:8). Faith lights the lamps that show the way. Send the light!

We begin perhaps with no faith – a minus. But at the Cross, the flame of faith leaps into our hearts, bringing the Holy Spirit, salvation, and forgiveness. At that place, Christ’s infinite work is accomplished, and faith makes it ours. We believe and receive. The Holy Spirit translates all Jesus did for us into our personal experience.

We are the lights of the world. The world likes to think that religion is dying, but, in vast areas of the world, the death rattle

is heard in the throat of secularism. As Christ is resurrection, godlessness is death – they are synonyms. People are not finding satisfaction in what mere governments can do, and are turning to the things of the Holy Spirit.

That is the situation. Have faith, be filled with the Spirit, and burn for God! Let the seven-branched lamp standard be ablaze!

If you believe, and I believe  
And we together strive,  
The Holy Spirit will come down,  
And nations will revive.

