

Spiritual Training Part 9

Aiming at Faith

(Two Perspectives)

Perspective #1

Hello again everyone!

Today's focus is on aiming at faith—a topic that touches on how we navigate life's challenges and spiritual growth. There's a lot to unpack here, so let's dive in!

First, let's talk about the idea of the **two doors**: one leads to **faith, boldness, and peace**, while the other leads to **doubt, fear, and worry**. It's like standing at a crossroads every day, deciding which path to take. The choice we make shapes our actions and mindset.

The Bible reminds us that faith isn't just a feeling—it's an action. When we step through the door of faith, we preserve our soul (**Hebrews 10:38-39**).

Take Elijah, for example. He had incredible moments of supernatural faith and boldness, like defeating the prophets of Baal. But fear crept in when Jezebel threatened him, and he ran away (**1 Kings 19:1-3**).

It's a reminder that even the strongest among us can struggle when fear takes hold. But here's the key: we're called to live by faith, not fear.

Faith is about trusting God even when things seem uncertain. Jesus himself said **He is the door** (**John 10:7-9**)—the beginning of everything. When we enter through Him, we're saved and blessed with every spiritual blessing (**Ephesians 1:3**). That's huge!

It means faith isn't just about survival; it's about thriving and **living in the fullness** of God's promises.

Now, let's talk about **how to keep faith strong**. **Isaiah 7:9** reminds us that without firm faith, we won't stand firm. Whether you read it as “be established,” “stand firm,” or “endure,” the message is clear: faith is the foundation. And just like anything worth building, it requires effort and attention.

So how do we aim at faith? It starts with what we focus on. **2 Timothy 2:22** encourages us to **aim at** righteousness, **faith**, love, and peace.

That means shunning distractions like fear and worry and surrounding ourselves with people who call on God with a pure heart.

Here are some practical reminders:

- 1. Don't throw away** your confidence—it's tied to your faith (**Hebrews 10:35**). Confidence comes from trusting God's Word.
- 2. Pay attention** to your actions and words—they direct your life.
- 3. Stay rooted** in God's Word because it fuels your faith.
- 4. Remember** that faith works through love (**Galatians 5:6**). It's not just about believing; it's about letting love drive your faith.

One powerful example is Galatians 2:20: "I live by the faith **of** the Son of God" That verse reminds us to place our measure of faith in the faith **of** Jesus, which is perfect faith. It's not about striving alone—it's about leaning into His strength.

So, as you go about your day, think about which door you're stepping through: the door of **faith** or the **door** of doubt? **Let's aim for** faith, **strive** for it, **pursue** it, and **follow** it. And remember, every action and word matters, they shape where we're headed.

Keep aiming at faith, it's worth it.

To be continued...

Be encouraged and blessed in Jesus' name!

Perspective #2

Spiritual Training Part 9: Aim at Faith

Faith is a **cornerstone** of spiritual growth, a guiding principle that shapes our relationship with God and empowers us to navigate life's challenges.

In this teaching, we delve deeper into the concept of faith, exploring its significance, its connection to action, and the contrast between faith and fear.

As we progress, we will **revisit** foundational ideas while introducing new material to enrich our understanding.

The Two Doors: Faith and Doubt

At the heart of today's teaching lies the metaphor of the two doors: one leading to faith and the other to doubt. **This imagery** illustrates the choices we face in our spiritual journey.

Faith is an entrance into God's promises, while doubt leads to fear, worry, and spiritual stagnation.

Jesus Himself emphasized the importance of choosing the right door. In **John 10:7-9**, He declared, "I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved." Faith begins with action—entering through the door of Jesus Christ. By doing so, we receive salvation and are blessed with "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (**Ephesians 1:3**).

Conversely, doubt causes us to shrink back in fear, as illustrated in **Hebrews 10:38-39**: "The just shall live by faith... if he draws back and shrinks in fear, My soul has no delight or pleasure in him." Fear leads to spiritual retreat, cutting us off from the blessings of faith.

Faith and Fear: A Biblical Contrast

The interplay between faith and fear is evident throughout Scripture. Elijah's account in **1 Kings 19:1-3** serves as a moving example.

After demonstrating extraordinary faith by confronting the prophets of Baal, Elijah succumbed to fear when threatened by Jezebel. He fled for his life, hiding in fear despite his prior victory through God's power.

This narrative underscores an important truth: fear can manifest even in those who have experienced God's supernatural power. It reminds us that advancing God's kingdom **requires** steadfast faith, not a retreat into fear.

Hebrews 10:38-39 further reinforces this contrast. Those who live by faith preserve their souls, while those who shrink back face spiritual destruction. Faith is not merely a passive belief; it requires active trust and reliance on God.

The Role of Confidence in Faith

Confidence plays a pivotal role in maintaining faith. **Hebrews 10:35** cautions us against throwing away our confidence, which is closely tied to our actions and words.

Confidence is defined as "faith or belief that one will act in a right, proper, or effective way." When we act and speak in alignment with God's Word, we reinforce our confidence and strengthen our faith.

Isaiah 7:9 offers a powerful reminder: "**If** you will not believe, surely you shall not be established." Faith is the foundation upon which we stand firm and endure. Without enduring faith, we cannot remain steadfast in the face of trials.

Faith Working Through Love

For **faith** to be effective, it must operate **through love**. **Galatians 5:6** states, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love."

Love is the driving force behind genuine faith. It aligns our hearts with God's purpose and enables us to act boldly and with conviction.

This principle is exemplified in **Galatians 2:20**: "I live by the faith **of** the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Jesus' sacrificial love is the foundation of our faith. **By placing our measure of faith in His perfect faith**, we align ourselves with His divine strength and purpose.

Practical Applications: Aiming at Faith

In **2 Timothy 2:22**, Paul encourages believers to "**aim at** righteousness, faith, love, and peace." This call to action highlights the intentional effort required to cultivate faith.

It is not enough to passively **hope** for spiritual growth; we must **actively pursue** it through our **actions** and **choices**.

To strengthen our faith:

- 1. Pay Attention to Actions and Words:** Our actions and speech direct our lives and reflect our inner beliefs. Speak words of life and act in alignment with God's promises.
- 2. Stay in the Door of Faith:** Continuously **choose the door of faith over doubt**. Trust in God's provision and remain steadfast in His Word.
- 3. Do Not Throw Away Confidence:** Guard your confidence by anchoring it in God's truth. Confidence fuels perseverance and enables us to endure challenges.

4. Memorize Scripture: Build a "**scripture arsenal**" to reinforce your faith during difficult times. God's Word provides strength and guidance.

5. Operate Through Love: Let love be the foundation of your faith. **Faith without love loses its effectiveness.**

The Dichotomy of Two Doors

To summarize, the two doors represent opposing paths:

Left Side (Door of Doubt):

- Fear
- Worry
- Uncertainty

Right Side (Door of Faith):

- Boldness
- Peace
- Trust

Choosing the door of faith leads to spiritual growth, boldness, and peace. It aligns us with God's promises and enables us to live victoriously.

Conclusion

Faith is not merely a concept; it is a lifestyle rooted in action, confidence, and love.

As we **aim at faith**, we must actively choose to enter through the door of Jesus Christ, trusting in His promises and relying on His strength.

By doing so, we preserve our souls, stand firm in trials, and experience the fullness of God's blessings.

Let us strive for **enduring faith** that does not waver but remains steadfast through life's challenges. In doing so, we align ourselves with God's purpose and advance His kingdom with boldness and conviction.

To be continued...

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