

DO YOU HAVE VIOLENT FAITH?

By Sue Whisenhunt

Passivity regarding the promises of the Word of God will leave God's intended blessing resting upon the pages of the Bible and will cause us to move into the place of self-preservation, trying desperately to do our best in life to just get by. Unfortunately, the result of this on-going passivity will generally cause one to go from crisis to crisis, never quite understanding why, and with the victory always just beyond our grasp.

But those who come to the realization that the promises are genuine and pertinent for us today, will wrap their arms of faith around them and pull them off of the pages of the Bible, refusing to let them go, until all things become just as the Word declares them to be. They refuse to take the devil's *"these are not for you"* as an answer, and adopt an *"I will not be denied"* attitude. They are convinced that if they see it written within the Word of God, then those promises belong to them! I call this tenacious and aggressive stand of determination - *Bulldog Faith*.

These are the people I see over and over getting results. Think of it: Every promise within the Bible, God has already made the provision for and has established them, settled them and stamped them with the seal of His approval for us by adding His "yes and amen" to them. 2 Corinthians 1:20 confirms this: *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."* Isn't that wonderful; There aren't any "no's" or "not right now's" connected to ANY of His promises within the Word - they are all YES to us right now. Praise God!!! I hope you also took notice of that word "all." This means that every promise contained within the Word of God is governed by this truth.

Since this is so, then why are we so content to allow adversity, sickness, disease, lack, poverty, discord, division and confusion dictate their twisted gospel of the curse to we who have been redeemed from that very curse.

Galatians 3:13 tells us plainly that "*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.*" Nearly every blessing I have enjoyed in my life came from me coming to the place where I finally got fed up with complacency and the status quo of passivity that oftentimes exists within the Body of Christ.

It's impossible to please God without faith.

I made up my mind that God means exactly what He says in His Word and made the decision to take a serious stand upon these precious promises of God - even at the risk of being called a fanatic, an extremist or you guessed it - one of those faith guys! After all, the bible says to live by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7
For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Let's take a look at what Jesus had to say in Matthew 11:12 regarding this kind of determined faith: "*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*"

Now I know many of us are familiar with this verse of Scripture, but I want you to take a fresh, new look at it by delving into a more in-depth meaning of the original language through the Amplified Bible.

Matthew 11:12 Amp
"And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize — a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]."

Wow - did you see that last line!!! They seize it by force, laying claim to it and refusing to let it go. In the Greek language it actually means they are crowding their way in forcibly, grabbing it, refusing to let go of the promise and not taking no for an answer.

These are the people who apply intense exertion to their faith to pull those promises right off of the pages of the Bible and right into their present reality; they meditate, ponder, speak them aloud and praise God for them. These are people who begin to see, and picture themselves the way the promises of God have declared them to be. They believe it, and speak in line with it - even in the face of pain and adversity.

They know who they are in Christ because the Word has revealed it to them and they are just bold enough to decree it even when circumstances opposite of the Word are manifesting.

Job 22:28 NKJV

You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

They are certain of the TRUTH that says what we see with our five physical senses is temporary and therefore changeable and can be replaced by the TRUTH that is Eternal and never changes. Obviously, according to this verse in Matthew, passivity just won't get it done!

They KNOW it's just a matter of time before everything becomes just as the Word says it should be!

It takes a focused, aggressive, pro-active, determined, "*do-what-ever-it-takes*" and a "*I'm-not-going-to-let-it-go*" kind of faith to pull in whatever we need. It's right there for us, as our covenant rights within the Kingdom of God.

It's interesting that if you read the account of the woman with the issue of blood that Jesus spoke about in Mark 5:25-34, you'll find that she is a very fitting example of this kind of violent faith. She wasn't about to let Jesus pass her by - she was determined. She knew that He was her miracle, and she did whatever it took to get to where He was, crowding and pushing and forcing her way through the multitudes surrounding Him.

She even risked being stoned to death, according to the Old Testament Law, because she was in an unclean state. Remember, Jairus the ruler of the Synagogue was right there with Jesus as they were enroute to his house to bring healing to his daughter. But that didn't stop this bold woman of faith, she took action and reached out and took hold of her miracle - and made a demand upon Jesus' power and ability.

The Bible tells us in John 1 and in Revelation 19 that Jesus IS the living Word of God. So in a sense, this woman pulled her miracle right off the pages of the Word!!! In fact, in the account of this same story in Luke 8:46 her action of faith drew an interesting response from Jesus. He said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Her strong, determined act of faith pulled her miracle right into her very being. After she did this, Jesus turned and said to her "YOUR FAITH has made you whole!" What a tremendous illustration of violent faith.

Her strong, determined faith pulled her miracle right into her body.

It's important here to note that in speaking of a "violent" faith, the Scripture is not condoning radical acts of violence within our communities and against those we do not agree with. This is not what is being stated here. After all, Jesus told us that the greatest command is love - to love God with our entire being and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

This Scripture is merely speaking about taking a strong, serious hold upon salvation and all of the covenant benefits and promises that salvation has provided for us to enjoy personally, being careful not to let them slip by.

Yes, we need to develop a strong "violent" faith that takes seriously the provision of God that was purchased and secured for us at a *VERY* high price. There was nothing passive about Jesus going to the cross. *It was extremely violent.* That prayer time in the garden of Gethsemane, when His sweat became drops of blood *was violent.* His interrogation with the High Priest and the Romans *was violent.* Those stripes he bore for our healing *was a VERY violent act.* The crown of thorns thrust angrily into his head *was violent.* Every nail and every hateful blow of the hammer *was violent.* Our sin, which He took upon Himself, *was violent,* and the Father turning His back to Him while bearing our sin *was violent.*

Yes, He paid a *VERY* violent price to provide these promises to us and also to open the access for us to attain these promises. And what was His reward for His violent faith? The reward was the opening of the way for us to become the children of God, and therefore become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. He received us as His family!

Romans 8:16-17 NKJV

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Now let me ask you a question: Are you content to just plod along through life, sitting upon your blessed assurance waiting to go to heaven, with no real direction for your faith now, wondering if your day of deliverance or peace will ever come?

Or are you fed up enough with your present situation that you'll begin to take aggressive steps to put serious action to your faith? Are you ready to take hold of the promises of the Word as your very own and become determined, pro-active, aggressive and strong in your faith stand, refusing to let them go?

Are you ready to function with Violent Faith?

If you're fed up with your circumstances (serpent stances) and are ready to make a change and take a stand - then rise up and begin to take God at His Word. Believe His Word and make a demand upon His Word, and put your faith to work! Become aggressive in your faith and steadfast in your belief, taking hold of what rightfully belongs to you, REFUSING to let it go until everything becomes just as the Word says it should be - if so THEN go and tell somebody!!!

I know they will see the fire of passion within your eyes and hear the conviction of the reality of those promises within your voice. Your testimony will have such a strong anointing, and will affect the hearts of those who hear it. I love the truth of what Revelation 12:11 tells us regarding our experienced testimony of the promises of God.

Revelation 12:11

"And they overcame him [devil, passivity, and the status quo] by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony..."

Yes, there is a mighty army of strong believers on the rise who are violent in their faith and will stand for nothing less than His best!!! Are you ready to take your stand with us?