

Faith Comes By Hearing **- Ron Stullenbarger -**

Romans 10:17 says, *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* Scripture offers us every truth we need to live a lifestyle of faith. Within its pages are powerful stories describing the miraculous works of a God who remained faithful to a people who chose pride, selfishness, and rebellion over His perfect, loving ways. And it contains incredible moments where God's people responded to His faithfulness with faith and were greatly rewarded.

Proverbs 4:20-22 says, *"My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh."* The desire of God for you and me is to be children filled with his life-giving words. God longs for us to experience the joy, purpose, and peace of faith founded on His word. He longs for us to live our lives with Scripture as a constant source of hope when the world seems to be crashing down around us.

For some, the Bible is boring. They know they should read it, so they will try and make some time here and there to read a little bit. But it feels more like an assignment than an encounter with the powerful words of God. It isn't until you begin to read Scripture as an avenue to connect with God and have your life transformed that you begin to enjoy it. As you begin to allow God's word to fill you with faith to live differently you discover the power of Scripture. When you use Scripture as a way to learn about and connect to the heart of your heavenly Father, your desire to read it grows to the point of overflowing.

Scripture has the power to lead us to a different way of living: the way of faith. Stories like Abraham and Isaac should guide us to trust the promises of our God. Stories like Israel and the walls of Jericho should lead us to act on God's word and leadership in faith that He will move in powerful ways to destroy our seemingly insurmountable obstacles. And the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus should guide us to a life of service to our God who would give up everything just to have restored relationship with us.

May your faith be stirred as you read Scripture. May the pages of God's word guide you to a lifestyle of trust, hope, and surrender. And may you experience the joy of living by faith in response to your God's amazing acts of faithfulness.