

Ezekiel Ministry

A Ministry of Hope and Healing



“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

Romans 13:12

August 2011

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

In 1982 we loaded up everything we owned in a U-haul truck. We hooked our 1973 Ford to the back of the truck and we moved to Colorado to attend Bible College and answer the call that God had laid on our hearts. Our house had not sold, but we both had heard from God that we were to move. We both had the peace of God in our hearts. We did this on faith in God. The faith that God would meet all of our needs. We were young Christians and we believed that when God calls He would provide.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)

He did provide more than I could have ever dreamed. All these years have been a journey that I would not have missed. God has been so good to us. The problem is I don't know that I have the faith today that I had in 1982. I have more worldly goods than I had then and I am older, but I don't feel that I have the faith that I should. I should have more faith because I have watched God over the years perform so many miracles. I need more faith in God. This is why Paul tells us, “Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” (Ephesians 6:16)

Satan wants to take away our faith. If he can take away our faith in God, he has won the main part of the battle.

When we lose our faith in God we turn more to the world and things of the world. We take our eyes off Jesus.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1 John 5:4-5)

I can tell you one thing for sure, the world will fail you. I don't care how much money you have or how important you are, the world will fail you. Our only hope is, “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

As we walk in this world, we need all the faith that we can get. Our faith must be strong and we must build our faith.

How do We Build and Preserve Our Faith

God's Word is instrumental in producing and preserving our faith. Our faith is built as we stay in God's Word. As a new Christian, we are excited about our new faith and we want to learn all we can about God. So we read His Word daily. Then the new wears off and we don't read God's Word as much.



We don't have time to spend the alone time with God, so we think. Satan tells us that we don't need to have alone time with God, He understands that we are just too busy. Our body cannot grow and remain healthy if we don't eat each day. Our spirit is the same way, we must feed our spirit if we are to be healthy spiritually. We grow in our spirit and in our faith by being alone with God and in His Word.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)

If our faith is to grow, we must exercise our faith.

“And Peter answered Him and said, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ So He said, ‘come,’ and when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind was boisterous, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, saying Lord save me.” (Matthew 14:28-30)

This is a perfect picture of Peter exercising his faith. Peter had the faith that he could walk on the water if Jesus would tell Him to come to Him. He could have been like the others in the boat and just stayed in the boat until Jesus came to the boat, but no Peter stepped out of the boat and put his faith in Jesus.

“But perhaps the most unforgettable walk of all was taken by Peter the day he got out of the boat and walked on the water. It is unforgettable not so much because of where he was walking as what he was walking on and who he was walking with. I think that when Peter went treading on the waves he was experiencing walking at it finest.” (John Ortberg)

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Strong faith frees the Christian from those thoughts which oppress weak faith. ***“You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for YAH, the Lord is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)***

To build faith we need to rid our hearts of unbelief. I am the doubting Thomas. I have to know in my mind for sure if something is right. I just don't trust people's opinion. I want to develop my own opinion. In my walk with God I have had my doubts, but even with my doubt I still have faith in God. If we have doubt, we need to spend time in God's Word and alone with God until these doubts are gone. If we will get rid of our doubts, our faith will be stronger.

“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the field yield no food; though the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.” (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

This is what faith is all about, it is about trusting God no matter what you see in the world. No matter what is happening in your life. No matter how bad the situation looks. Satan wants us to lose our faith so that we will lose our walk with God. He will come to us telling us that God does not care or that God does not exist. He want us to look at events as the world looks at events. We must look at events through the eyes of Jesus.

Having faith will not stop us from having fear. Fear is part of growing. Every time we want to grow it will involve going into new territory, taking on new challenges. And each time we step out on faith we will have fear. The decision to grow always involves a choice between risk and comfort. Having faith does not mean that you will be comfortable, it means that you trust God and that you obey what He is telling you. The problem with our lack of faith is that when God speaks to us about what He wants us to do and we resist that voice, each time we choose to not have faith the voice gets quieter. Then in the end we don't even hear that voice and Satan has won.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles; or where the doer of deed could do better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...who at best, knows in the end the triumph of great achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place will never be with those cold timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt

We Must Pray for and Support Israel

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

If at times we have doubts that Israel is God’s chosen nation, we need to look closer at Israel and what God has done in this small nation. It is amazing that a nation that dominates world news has less than 1/10th of 1% of the world’s population.

Israel is **only 1/6 of 1%** of the land mass of the Middle East. Israel is roughly **half** the size of Lake Michigan. The Sea of Galilee, at 695 ft. below sea level, is the **lowest** freshwater lake in the world. The Dead Sea is the **lowest** surface point on earth, at about 1,373 feet below sea level. Israel is the **only** nation in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees.

Israel's population is **half** the size of Metro New York City. Israel has **only 2%** of the population of the Middle East .

Israel has the **highest** ratio of university degrees per capita in the world. Israel has the **highest** number of scientists and technicians per capita in the world - by a **large margin**. Israel has the **highest** number of engineers per capita in the world. Israel has the **highest** number of PhDs per capita in the world. Israel has the **highest** number of physicians per capita in the world. Israel has the **largest** percentage of its workforce employed in technical professions in the world.

Israel is the **only** country in the Middle East where the Christian population has grown over the last 50 years.

Israel is the **only** country in the Middle East where women enjoy full political rights.

Israel has the **largest** number of startup companies per capita in the world. Israel is the world's **largest** wholesale diamond center, finally surpassing Antwerp in the 1970's. **Most** of the cut & polished diamonds in the world come from Israel.

Israel has the **largest** number of NASDAQ listed companies outside of the US and Canada. Israel was the **first** country to have a free trade agreement with the United States. Apart from the Silicon Valley, Israel has the **highest** concentration of hi-tech companies in the world.

The **cell phone** was developed in Israel at Motorola's largest development center. The **Voice Mail** technology was developed in Israel. In the early 80's, IBM chose an **Israeli-designed computer chip** as the brains for its **first personal computers**. The **first** anti-virus software for computers was developed in Israel in 1979. Most of the **Windows NT and XP** operating systems were developed in Israel.

Of the 175 UN Security Council resolutions passed before 1990, 97 were directed against Israel. Of the 690 UN General Assembly resolutions voted on before 1990, 429 were directed against Israel.

Gives you something to think about. How important is Israel to the world and to God?

***Barry & Faye Wilson
P.O. Box 1119
Pinson, Alabama 35126
205-914-1530
205-680-0588
barry@ezekielministry.com
www.ezekielministry.com
www.sharingtheabundantlife.com***