

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## ***The Power & Discernment of Faith***

*(Foundations of Faith, pt.5)*

As we heard from James last week, **the benefits of faith** are received **from God**

- The Lord **expects us** to come to Him **expecting** to get them
- James reminded us that learning about them is **not enough**
- Not using them **is a deception** that renders them inert

James also says that we should be **listening** more than talking

- We have **two ears** and only **one mouth**
- And that our faith is **more powerful** than the devil

True Faith **listens first** – and learns whether it should speak, **or not**

**James 1:19 & 26**, So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear, slow to speak...**

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and **does not bridle his tongue** but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

**James 3:2-12**, For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how

great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not to be so.** Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

What should faith ask for that it might speak?

**James 1:5-6**, If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting

How can we recognize **the wisdom of faith**, and what it is not?

**James 3:13-18**, Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in **the meekness of wisdom** (Matt.5:5). But if you have bitter envy and **self-seeking** in your hearts, do not boast and lie against

the truth (Phil. 2:3-4). This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the **wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle (Matt. 11:29), willing to yield, full of mercy (Matt. 5:7) and good fruits (Gal. 5:22-23), without partiality (2:1-4) and without hypocrisy.** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who **make peace (Matt. 5:9).**

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Gabe, Oak & three German Shepherds

- **How does faith work when we are attacked?**

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Faith does not cohabit with **doubt, worry, fear & pride**

- **They are all attacks on faith**
- **One will displace the other**

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**John 10:10, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. What?**

- **Everything of faith, hope & love (I Cor. 13:13)**
- **All of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)**

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**James 4:5-7, Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

- **Power over the devil begins with submission to God**
- **Never attempt to resist the devil when you are not in submission to God**

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Why would we need to resist the devil?

- **Because he attacks us**

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What do we overcome him with?

- **Ephesians 6:16-17, Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked**

one. And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**

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**James 1:5-6, If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, (Lord, what do I do?) who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting**

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**John 14:26, But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

- **The wisdom of faith hears the Word of God...**
- **That overpowers & dispatches the devil**
- **Matthew 4:1-11, Just like Jesus (John 5:19 & 20:21)**

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**Matthew 17:1-5, He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."**

**Faith listens & hears more than it says & does**