

 NEW COVENANT CHURCH

The Masterpiece Mindset

PART THREE

The Good Fight of Faith

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You are God's Masterpiece

Ephesians 2:9 NLT

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

A masterpiece is the best work of an artist, craftsman, architect, writer, etc.



1 Timothy 6:6

*Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is
certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having
food and clothing, with these we shall be
content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall
into temptation and a snare, and into many
foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in
destruction and perdition.*

1 Timothy 6:10

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses***

Everything Is Filtered Through Your Mind

Walking by Faith is not a mental exercise, but our minds play a role in our faith walk.

In particular, we have to wrestle with our own thinking, imaginations, and reasonings as it relates to the Word of God.

Example: What is Love?

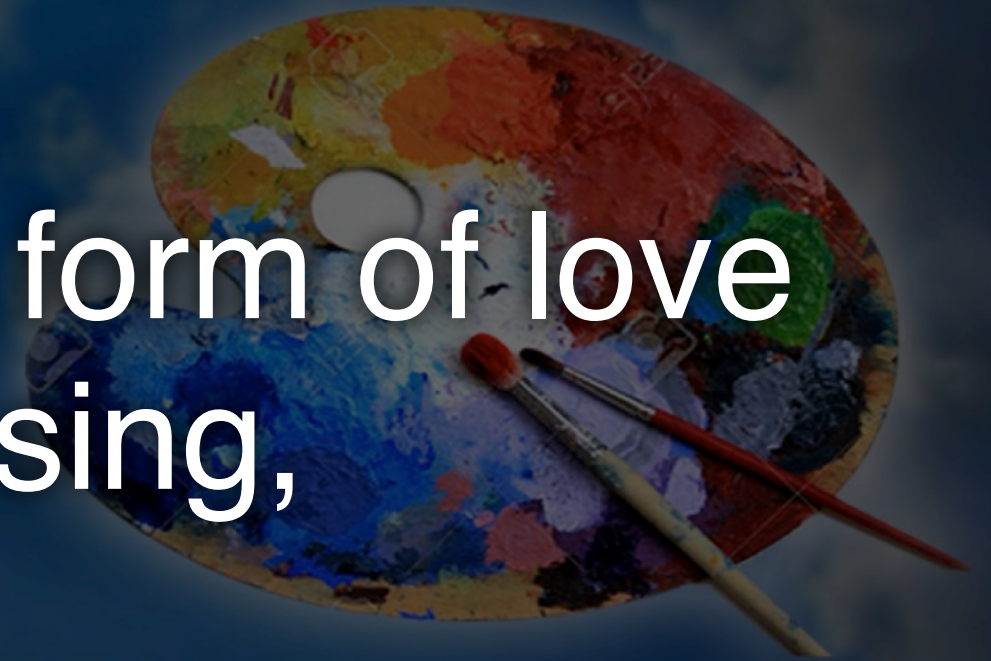
Our answer to that question almost always involves how we feel and what types of emotions are present.

What is Love?

So the definition of the highest form of love is giving, serving, helping, blessing, expecting nothing in return.

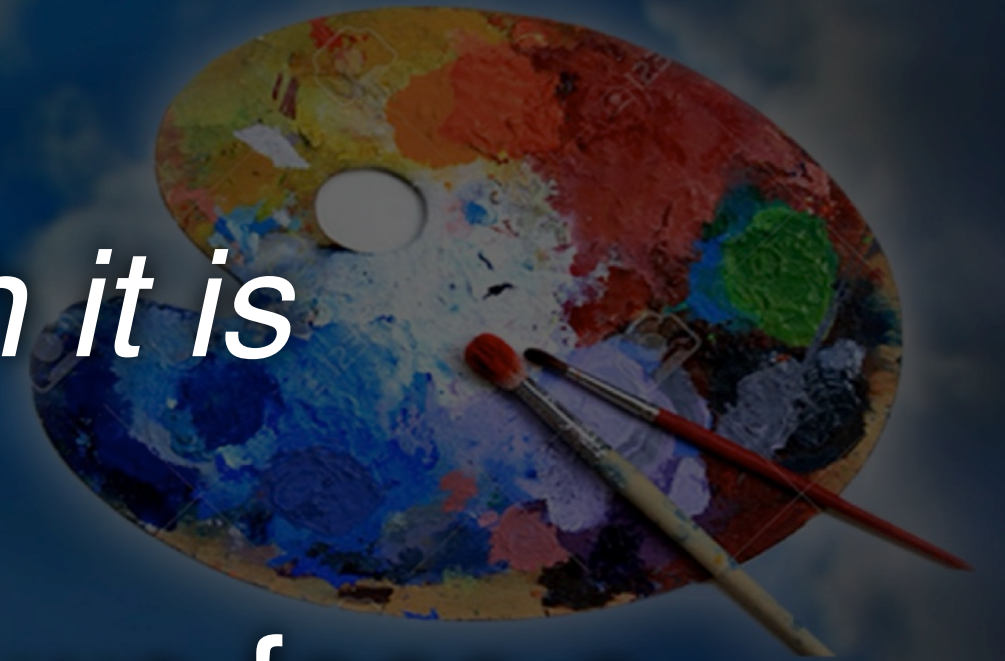
Motivated to please God and reflect His character.

This is not something we understand through our minds only



What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:6, *But without faith it is impossible to please God*



When it comes to faith in God, we face a similar situation because we process faith through our minds.

Our minds are the greatest obstacle to faith in God.

What is Faith?

The masterpiece mindset in relation to walking by faith is: ***Set your mind on things above:***

Colossians 3:1-3

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Moffatt's Translation:

Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see."

New English Bible

"Faith gives substance to our hopes

What is Faith?

The Scripture is telling us that faith is laying hold of the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality.

There is a big difference between hoping and believing.

Sometimes we're not really believing that we have received from Gods; we're just hoping it's going to happen one day.

The Difference Between Faith & Hope

Hope is future tense.

Faith is present tense.

The Hebrews text says: ***“NOW faith is...”***

That is present tense. If it's not now, it's not faith.



Don't Confuse a Promise with a Provision

Some people are always believing that God is going to do something for them, but faith believes that God has done it and is doing it.

Matthew 8:17

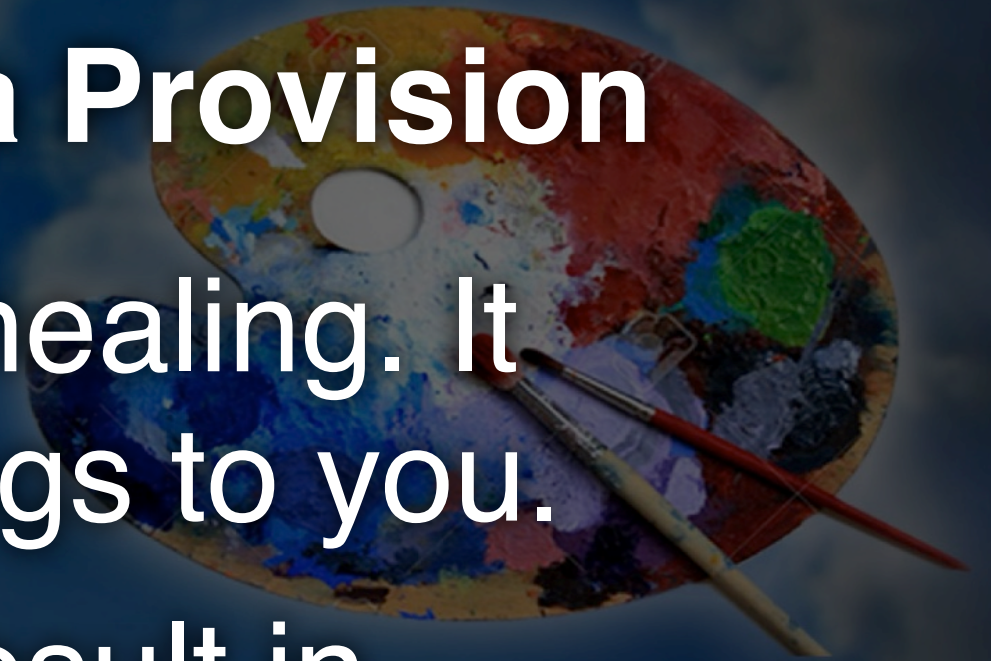
That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses"

Don't Confuse a Promise with a Provision

Scriptures like this do not promise healing. It describes the provision, what belongs to you.

A promise does not automatically result in receiving provision.

You have faith in God to receive provisions. This helps us maintain a proper relationship with God.





One of the challenges, is to stop your mind from misinterpreting what the Bible says or inserting what you feel and think

Faith in God and seeking answers to prayer is not magic, it is the process of walking with God

Example of the Mind Inventing Something Not Confirmed by Scripture

Many say: *“American was founded on
Biblical Principles”*

The facts argue against it.



The Facts

25 of the 55 framers of the constitution were slave owners.

The Constitution doesn't mention Jesus Christ and there's no Scripture references in it – by design.

The Framers could have decided to abolish slavery at the founding of the nation. They did not do the “Christian” thing, but affirmed the ungodly and evil thing.

They wanted the wealth generated by all the free labor of enslaved people.



Faith in God Does Not Depend on the Mind, But it Does Not Lack Common Sense

An evangelist from the early 20th century, Lilian Yeomans, said this: *“If I pray for something and don’t get it, I start changing. I change, because if I pray and that prayer isn’t answered, there will have to be a change before the answer comes. And I know there can’t be any change with God; He never changes. So if there’s any changing, it has to be on my part. Therefore, if I pray and do not receive, then I start changing.”*

Fight the Good Fight of Faith Because you **ALWAYS WIN!**

1 Timothy 6:11

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...

We “Lay hold” on what we already have. We Don’t hope to do it, we do it!

