

# THE FAITH THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS

Jude 3  
Gal 5. 22

Our subject is not the doctrinal contents of faith, nor is it the faith that every Christian inherits as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (See p. 145 -146). We shall be talking here about the faith of which Jesus said :

Mt 17. 20

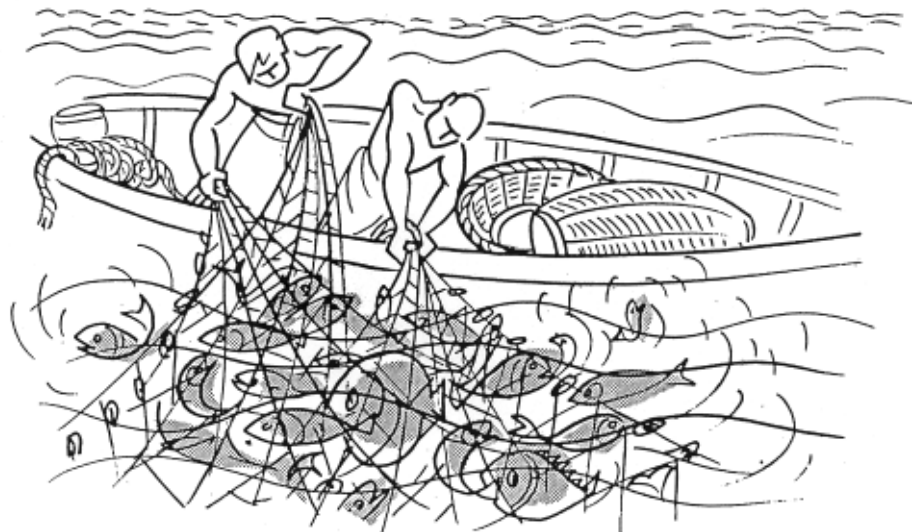
*If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it will move.*

***Nothing will be impossible for you.***

This subject is closely linked to walking by the Spirit.

We shall consider in turn :

***WHAT FAITH IS,  
HOW TO OBTAIN IT,  
WHAT OBSTACLES THERE ARE TO FAITH.***



*At your word, I will let down the nets ...*

# I - What faith is

## 1 - FAITH IS NOT EVIDENCE

2Co 5. 7

Faith <sup>1</sup> is based on the Word of God. Evidence is based on the data from our senses or our reasoning.

Jn 20. 25

*Unless I see ... I will not believe it !*

Like the apostle Thomas, some sick people want to see the signs of their healing before they can believe it. This is putting the cart before the horse. We must believe before we see ! The miracle does not give us faith, it is faith which produces the miracle.

Jn 2. 23-24

*Many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them ...*

Ro 4. 19-20

Faith does not deny the evidence : Abraham *faced the fact that his body was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old - and that Sarah's womb was also dead.* Yet for him, the promises of God were more important than appearances. This reminds me of the remark of a young mother :

Jn 11. 40

The doctor had declared her new-born girl to be down's syndrome. This diagnosis was confirmed by the blood test. However the mother said firmly : "the Word of God is truer than appearances." How surprised the paediatrician was when, month by month, he observed that the baby's development was completely normal ! In this case, is it not the parent's faith which made all the difference <sup>2</sup> ?



## 2 - FAITH IS NOT BELIEF

Faith is spiritual. Belief is mental.

Heb 4. 2

We can adhere mentally to a truth, believe that a biblical promise is true, and yet not take hold of it by faith. Thus belief can give the illusion of faith.

Jn 5. 39-40

The pharisees were filled with beliefs ...

Mk 1. 24

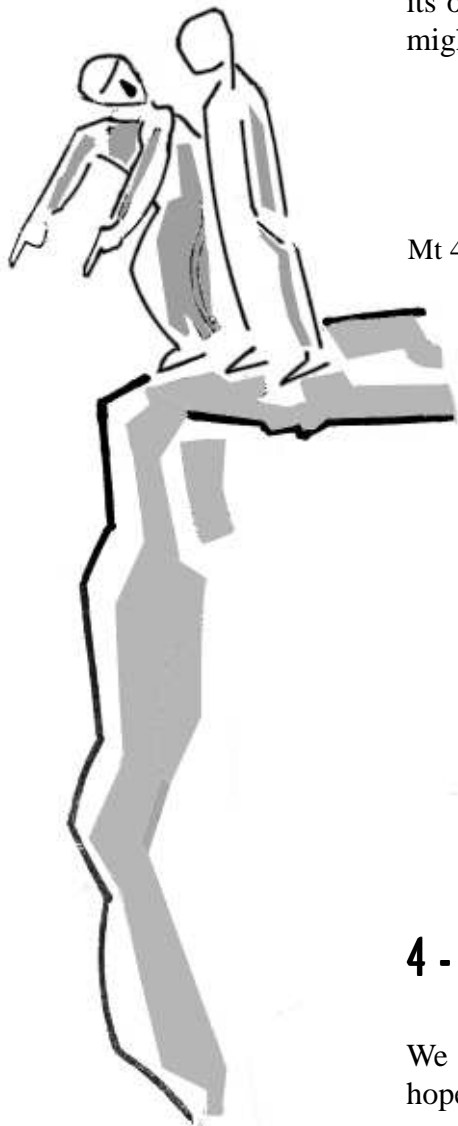
The demons too !

<sup>1</sup> Let us say it again : we are dealing with the faith that moves mountains (See p. 153).

<sup>2</sup> We shall further see, that each person must exercise his own faith, as soon as he is in a position to do so.

### 3 - FAITH IS NOT PRESUMPTION

Presumption is a kind of self-persuasion. It uses the Word of God for its own ends, *without revelation* of this Word. Taken to extremes, it might seek to manipulate God.



Mt 4. 6-7

Presumption leads to acting insanely.

#### ***THROW YOURSELF DOWN !***

We know the tragic story of the three young Korean women who drowned as they tried to walk on the waters of a swollen river. They claimed to do what Peter had done ... But they had never received the revelation that he had !

There is also the story of a Christian who wanted to demonstrate his faith by plunging his hand into a basket of snakes. He almost died as a result.

Sure enough, these are extreme cases, but a sick person who throws away his medicine without having received faith for his healing, also acts presumptuously.

### 4 - FAITH IS NOT HOPE

We often confuse faith and hope. Faith is always for now, whereas hope is for the future :

*Martha answered, "I know **he will rise again** in the resurrection at the last day."*

Jesus has never said to anybody : "Your hope has saved you", or "your hope has healed you." Somebody who says "I hope that the Lord will heal me" will probably have to wait a long time ... Thus, a man kept on *hoping* for fifty years that he would receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit ! But he received it instantly as soon as his hope was changed to faith !

Jn 11. 24

Mt 8. 13

*It will be done just as you believed it would.*

Mk 11. 24

*Believe that **you have received it**, and **it will be yours**.*

## 5 - FAITH IS THE FIRM ASSURANCE ...

Heb 11. 1 (ASV)

*Faith is assurance <sup>1</sup> of things hoped for,  
a conviction of things not seen.*

Heb 11. 1 (NIV)

*Faith is being sure of what we hope for  
and certain of what we do not see.*

Faith, inevitably, gives rise to the miracle. It enables us to appropriate our healing or any other blessing based on a biblical promise, in advance of and despite the appearances.<sup>2</sup>

***This certainty is based  
ONLY  
on the Word of God.***

Let us repeat that faith does not deny the existence of symptoms, sensations, feelings, reasonings, experiences and the like. But it gives greater credit to the Word of God than to all the rest. Faith considers all that is opposed to the Word of God to be a lie from the enemy. Faith is sure that, sooner or later, circumstances must come into line with the Word of God.

Faith never says "Lord, **if** it be your will ..." because the Word of God always expresses the will of God. There is no doubt about the matter !

On her wedding day, her very considerate father promises her a car ! The young bride, who knows her father well, never doubts his word. She already owns this brand-new car ! She jumps for joy when she thinks about it ! Yet she has neither seen nor tried it. She does not even know what colour it is. But she is sure of her father's word.

***SHE IS SURE  
OF HER FATHER'S  
WORD***



<sup>1</sup>The greek word used in the original - *hypostasis* - is translated by assurance or substance. So, we can see that faith brings to existence the things hoped for. <sup>2</sup>Promises usually go along with conditions. An example : Prov 3. 7-10

## II - How to obtain faith

It is impossible to make faith out of human effort, because it is divine in nature. Only Jesus can give it :

Heb 12. 2

*Jesus (is) the author and perfecter of our faith ...*

Jn 16. 14

We obtain faith that moves mountains when we are in contact with Jesus, just as we obtain electricity from a power-plant. It can happen instantly, but in general, we must draw so near to Jesus as to touch him. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to do so.

### 1 - HOW DO WE DRAW NEAR TO JESUS ?

Gal 5. 22

Faith, that is to say confidence in Jesus, which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, enables us to draw near to him :

Heb 4. 16

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may ... find grace to help us in our time of need.*



To draw near to Jesus means to hold on to his Word, and persevere. It means to put our trust in him, by resting on his promises. It has nothing to do with trying desperately and uselessly to manufacture faith for ourselves ! It has also nothing to do with passivity.

*As the bee goes* from flower to flower to gather nectar, so we must wander in the "garden" of God's Word, in order to find revelation. That is to say, we must meditate on the permanent word LOGOS until we receive the instant word RHEMA, a precise, living, tailor-made, revealed word which corresponds to a given situation.<sup>1</sup>

To sum up, we receive faith when shifting from *Logos* to *Rhema* :

Ro 10. 17

*Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> The logos Word applies to everybody. For example : *Live at peace with everybody* (Ro 12. 18). The rhema Word speaks to me personally: "So go and make peace with James, your neighbour !" (See page 75)

***Practically, whatever the problem, we are supposed to :***

### **A - SEARCH**

Look for what the Bible has to say on the subject. The more our minds are renewed, the less we have to search. We shall find for example:

3Jn 2	If we are looking for work,
Jas 1. 5-6	If we lack wisdom,
Ps 103. 3	If we need healing,
Ps 127. 1-2	If we long for rest !
Ps 33. 18-19	If we are afraid of famine.

### **B - MEDITATE**

Meditation is not making highbrow comments. It is reflecting on the Word of God and seeing how it relates to me in my present situation.

Jn 15. 7

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*

If we do not do our part, we keep God from doing his. Kenneth E. Hagin recounts how he laid hands on his young daughter suffering from a malignant tumour near her eye, to no effect. He then spent two nights meditating on the biblical verses concerning divine healing. Then he received revelation which gave rise to faith, and the child was healed !

Heb 4. 14

*Proclaiming the Word of God which applies to a situation, is part of the meditation. **We shall never obtain anything beyond what we proclaim.** Let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.*

### **C - OBEY**

Lk 5. 5

Peter replied : *because you say so, I will let down the nets. **When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break ...** It was not enough to say so, it had to be done.*

1Jn 1. 7

As we meditate on the Word, the Holy Spirit shows us what may block our faith. *If we walk in the light ...* communion is re-established.

### **D - PRAISE**

Ps 22. 4

We have already looked at the importance of praise to enable us to listen to the Lord. We cannot meditate on the Word of God and lament about our problem, at the same time.

## 2 - HOW DO WE TOUCH JESUS ?

### A - A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Mk 5. 25-34

The woman subject to bleeding for years, could have reacted negatively when she heard about Jesus :

"What is the use ? I have spent all my money to no avail ..." If she had reacted in this way, she would never have been healed. Instead, she was confident in Jesus. She decided to get close to him and touch him.

#### \* *She draws close to Jesus*

She says : " If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Notice that she speaks in the future tense. She finds hope. It is the path leading to faith.

She acts : "*She came up behind him in the crowd.*" She puts her words into action. Her confidence grows the closer she gets to Jesus.

#### \* *She touches Jesus*

She touches his garment. Immediately she feels in her body that she is healed.

Jesus, too, senses that power has gone out from him. He says "*Daughter, your faith has healed you.*"

The faith of Jesus into her, has become her own.



Mt 14. 36

We sometimes hear people say : "I had faith and it didn't work ..." This is to misunderstand the nature of faith. True faith, the faith of Jesus, always works. *All who touched Jesus, were healed.* However, we can lose the faith we have received, most commonly by speaking negative words. On the contrary, witnessing is an excellent way of keeping it :

Mk 5. 33

*Then the woman ... came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.*

In front of everybody ! In this way her faith was strengthened and other people were encouraged. There was victory !

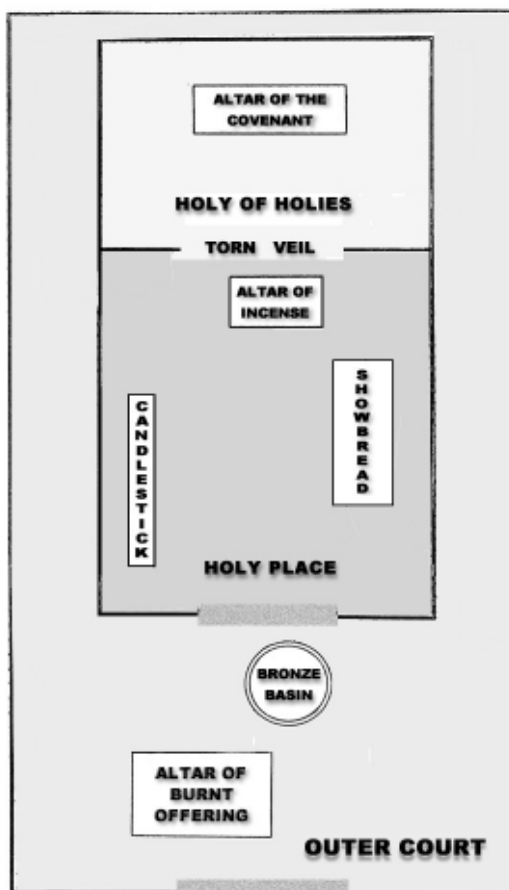
**B - TOUCHING JESUS TODAY**

Heb 13. 8

Jesus' compassion for the sick and his power of healing have not diminished since the time when he walked the roads of Galilee. Today, too, we just need to touch him to recover our health.

Heb 8. 1-2

Jesus is now in heaven, seated at the right hand of God, in the true tabernacle. The Holy Spirit invites us, and urges us, to enter and receive our promised inheritance.



*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb 4. 16)*

There is a sure way to get to the throne of grace. The earthly temple shows us the stages. We must walk through :

- The outer court
- The holy place.

**THE OUTER COURT** is a place of purification. There we leave everything which could hinder our communion with the thrice holy God : sins, resentment, bitterness, fears, doubts ... *The blood of Jesus cleanses our consciences from every dead work. (Heb 9. 14)*

In the **HOLY PLACE**, we receive light, strength, fellowship. We enter into praise which leads to adoration. Then we catch sight of *the torn Veil* and we can go, boldly, into the Holy of Holies. (Heb 10. 19-20)

Jn 14. 6-9  
Jas 1. 17

In the **HOLY OF HOLIES**, we touch Jesus, *the Author of our faith* (Heb 12.2), *the Way to the Father* ! Then the Father, the source of every good and perfect gift, cannot help blessing us ...

Eph 3. 20

*Immeasurably more than all  
we ask or imagine.*



**THE GLORY OF GOD ON HIS FACE ...**

Charles Price tells the moving story of a crippled man who was not healed though he had attended many meetings. How many times people had prayed and begged the Lord to heal him ! One day, as Price was laying hands on him again, he began to weep and said :

*Purification*

*"I came here, confident of what I thought to be my faith. I now realize that I was taking for a virtue what was actually hypocrisy : people took me for one that could endure pain without complaining, and I was proud of my reputation ...*

*Communion*

*Doctor Price, I need Jesus much more than healing. I am craving for his presence !"*

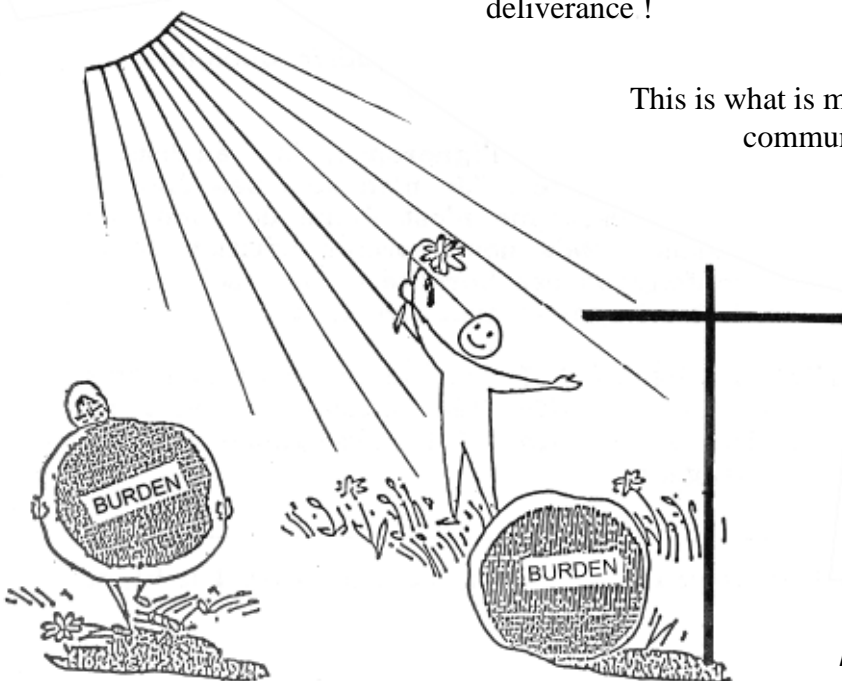
It is good thus to come to the end of our own resources. Jesus never scorns a broken heart.

*Adoration*

A few days later, our invalid was patiently waiting in his wheelchair for the doors of the auditorium to be opened. **His face was shining with glory.** He told us of his encounter with Jesus : he had spent the night in prayer, not just in intercession, but especially in praise and worship. At four o'clock in the morning, the intense presence of the Lord had flooded over him ! From that moment on, **he knew** that his struggle was over. His soul bathed in a gentle, divine peace.

*Healing*

Charles Price said : "He doesn't need to wait for the meeting. The Great Physician is here !" A moment later, the man got up out of his wheelchair. He was running, jumping and praising God for his deliverance !



This is what is meant by "touching Jesus" : adoration, communion, peace and ... faith. If we draw close to Jesus with **perseverance**, the faith that moves mountains will manifest itself.

*Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

*(Heb 7. 25)*

## III - Obstacles to faith

Since faith is so simple, why is it so rare ?

1 Ti 6. 12

Faith is *a fight* ! It comes up against obstacles. In order to overcome them, we first need to recognize them. Let us name those which seem to be the most common :

- 1) *Ignorance of the Word of God*
- 2) *Impatience*
- 3) *Worry*
- 4) *Bitterness*
- 5) *Passivity*
- 6) *Pressure from those around us.*

### 1 - IGNORANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Hos 4. 6

*My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*

Ro 10. 17

What good is an inheritance if the heir does not know his rights ? It is through the revelation of the Word of God, that faith comes to us. We emphasize the point intentionally : the greatest obstacle to faith is ignorance of the Word of God.

**Misunderstanding** of this Word is sometimes worse than ignorance. Is it not more difficult to receive revelation when we contend that "we know", when in fact we don't know ? Filtering the Word through traditions, habits and false doctrines is the worst enemy of faith. The people of Nazareth, "used to" Jesus, claimed to know him and yet ...

Mk 6. 5-6

*He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them ... And he was amazed at their lack of faith.*

**False humility**, which stems from ignorance, is another barrier to faith. It makes us say : "I am not worthy of it ... It is too good for me ..." Sure enough, nobody is worthy of God's gifts ! Nobody but Jesus ! But, we are heirs to the worthiness of Jesus ! We must be careful not to confuse humility with unawareness of our identity in Christ. The Lord warns us:

2 Ch 29. 11

*My sons, do not be negligent now !* Let us arm ourselves with the Word of God **before** confronting the difficulties. Do we wait until we break down to fill up the tank ? The following testimony is eloquent and encouraging :

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<sup>1</sup> This list is not exhaustive. The Holy Spirit will reveal to us what may block our faith, if we listen to him with an obedient heart.

A little boy of nine was in intensive care ... Both his kidneys were no longer working. His parents were only allowed to see him several minutes a day. The doctor was unsuccessfully trying to warn them of his imminent death. "No ! He will live !" they would say, "because Jesus took up our infirmities and carried our sicknesses."

The father said to his son : "If you can't sleep at night, say this over and over: *Jesus took my infirmities. He carried my sicknesses and by his stripes, I am healed.*" The boy did so and three nights later, he was healed ! His parents gave this testimony :

"If we had not learnt to stand firmly on the Word of God **before** these dark moments, we would have lost our child."

## 2 - IMPATIENCE

Jas 5. 7

*See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, and how patient he is ...*

Lk 8.15

We too, must wait patiently for the revelation from which faith springs. When we rush for the blessing, we run the risk of missing the greatest thing : communion with the One who blesses.



Heb 10. 36

*You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*

## 3 - WORRY

Ph 4. 6-7

Worry and faith cannot cohabit ! Before talking to us about prayer, God says "*Do not be anxious about anything ...*" because anxiety would cancel out the effects of prayer.



## 4 - BITTERNESS

Mk 11. 25-26

Jesus underlines the importance of forgiveness, immediately after the lesson on faith and the practical demonstration of the withered fig-tree. Let us not forget that not forgiving ourselves is also an obstacle to faith.

That evening, she returned home in despair. She had, once again, received prayer for healing, to no avail ...

"Dear Jesus, she groaned, I have tried so hard to have faith and I can't do it ! Everybody has tried to pray for me and nothing has happened ! Speak to me, Lord ! *My only hope is in you !*"

Heb 12. 15

She then remembered a woman, a schoolteacher, who had taken over from her and robbed her of her pupils' affection. The bitterness had never really left her since. So she went to see this schoolteacher and, as they prayed together, the Lord filled her heart with love for her.

Jb 42. 10

"I shall be healed at the meeting this evening !" she said. "The Lord has given me his faith ! I am sure that I have really received it." Yet, apparently, nothing had changed ... True enough, her cancer disappeared that very evening !

## 5 - PASSIVITY

We cannot, indefinitely, receive gifts from God through the faith of others. Ministry such as laying on of hands, the anointing with oil, the prayer of believers, is precious, but, sooner or later, we must exercise faith for ourselves, if only to hold on to the blessing we have received. We must learn to breathe with our own lungs !

Pr 18. 7, 21

We can nullify the effects of the faith of others, by negative words :

"Here we go ! Here it is again ! I have backache again. I must have got it wrong. The Lord hasn't healed me."

Do such words not open the gate to the enemy ? Will they not induce him to rob us of the blessing ?

## 6 - PRESSURE FROM THOSE AROUND US

Did not the woman with the issue of blood have to overcome her fear in order to make her way to Jesus, through the crowd ? A crowd undoubtedly hostile and certainly threatening. Was she not "unclean" ? Untouchable ! How daring of her ! Likewise, don't we have to row up the stream of the world around us, in order to exercise faith ? The air we breathe is saturated with unbelief. Sometimes even inside churches ... If we seek the approval of others, we block the channel of faith.

Jn 5. 44

*How can you believe if you accept praise from one another ?*

Heb 11. 6

*Without faith it is impossible to please God.*

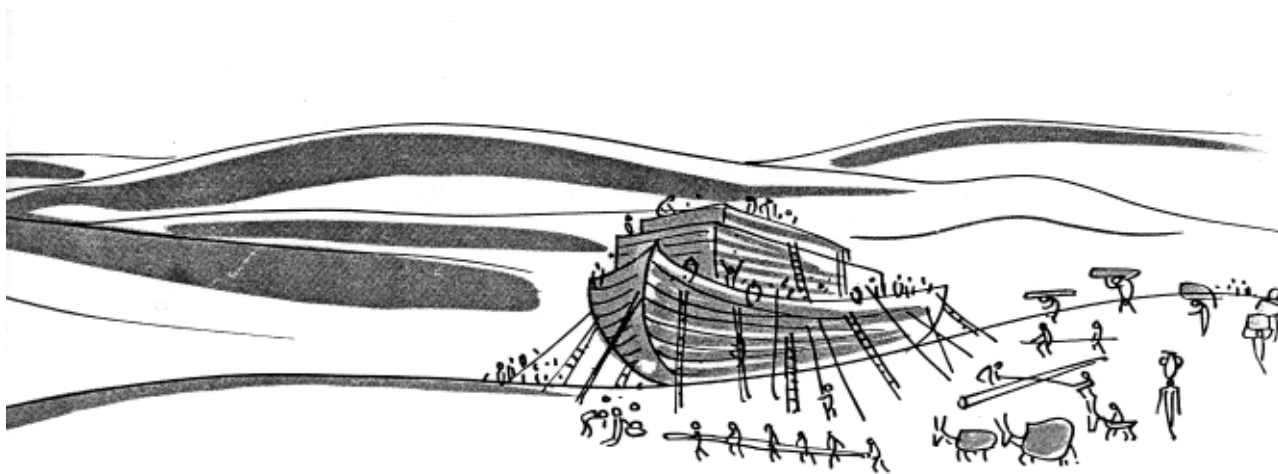
We have to choose ... Noah made a choice. He did not concern himself with the reactions of those around him :

Gn 6. 9, 22

*He walked with God ... He did everything just as God commanded him.*

Heb 11. 7

**BY FAITH NOAH**, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear, **BUILT AN ARK** to save his family .



***Faith, without works, is dead.***

**THE END**



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# CONTENTS

## FIRST PART : DISCOVERING

Preface .....	III
Chapter 1 - What is the question ? .....	1
Chapter 2 - It is possible ! .....	13
Chapter 3 - The renewing of the mind - Why ? .....	17
Chapter 4 - The renewing of the mind - How ? .....	35

## SECOND PART : CONQUERING

Chapter 5 - Deciding .....	61
Chapter 6 - Listening .....	73
Chapter 7 - Discerning .....	95
Chapter 8 - Obeying .....	109
Chapter 9 - Listening in a small group .....	117

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - The new birth .....	131
Appendix 2 - Baptism in the Holy Spirit .....	143
Appendix 3 - The faith that moves mountains .....	153

## Bibliography



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