

1st Quarter 2018

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

THE GREATEST ENEMY OF FAITH

by Charles Capps

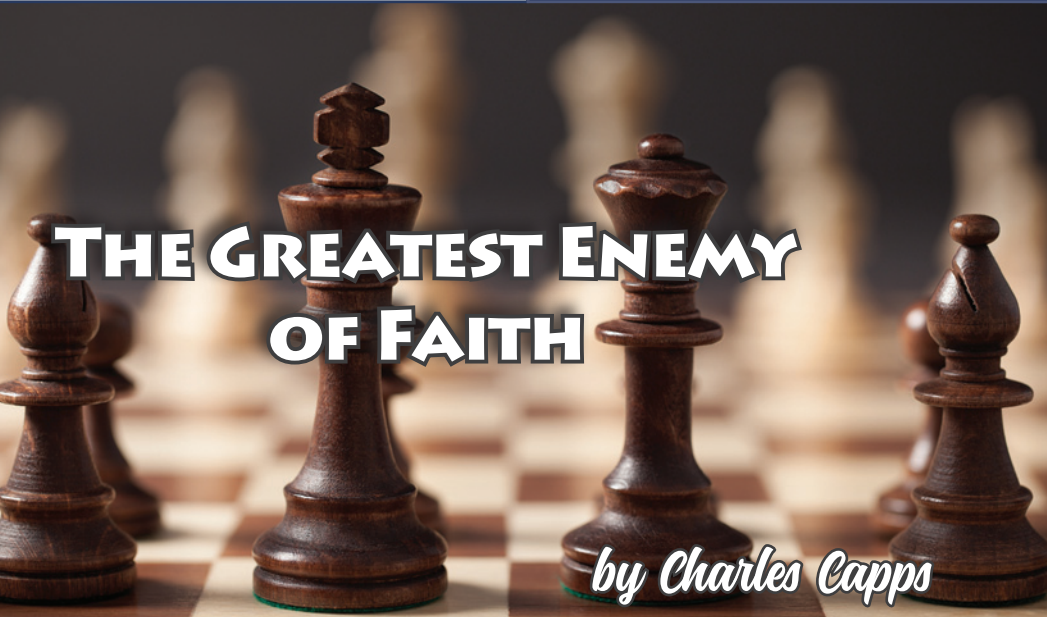
THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Annette Capps

PRAISE & WORSHIP

by Peggy Capps





THE GREATEST ENEMY OF FAITH

by Charles Capps

The greatest enemy of faith, the most subtle and the most devastating, is the lack of knowledge of the Word of God. To believe the devil's lie that, "It is God that is putting you through trials and tests" will neutralize your faith. Through religious tradition satan has blinded the minds of Christians to what the Word says. Jesus said, "**SATAN HATH DESIRED TO...SIFT YOU.**"

James 1:2 says, "...count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." Notice, he said, "when you fall into temptations," not when you walk into them with your eyes open. Some folks have walked into them with their eyes wide open! This verse is often misquoted as, "The trying of your faith perfects it." But the Word says, "The trying of your faith works patience."

Patience is a spiritual force that will support your faith like a pier

under a bridge. Satan tries that which you call "faith" to see if it is true faith, or if it is mental assent. The force of patience will undergird your faith and cause you to be constant - holding the same confession through the trial satan brought.

SATAN IS OUT TO DESTROY YOUR FAITH

Peter said, "... think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings..." (I Peter 4:12-13) No, it's not strange that these things happen. Satan is not out to perfect your faith. If the trying of your faith perfected it, we would all have it made. Our faith would be perfect. I don't know anyone who hasn't had

plenty of trials or tests!

I'll admit that if you win out with your faith, you will be stronger. If you'll put your faith into action through the Word, you will come out with a determination to not let satan win another battle. But that is not what satan designed it to do. He designed the trial to put you under, not over.

Trials are a design of satan. If you believe that God sends trials, that is a devastating blow to your faith. If God is doing it, certainly you don't want to resist God. For instance, in the area of sickness, if it's God's will for you to be sick, why go to a doctor and try to get out of God's will?

It is God's will that you be well. "*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*" (III John 2) God wants you healed, and He will go any way you choose: through doctors, through the Word, or both. But, if you fall for satan's lie, your faith is in neutral. You cannot use your faith to get rid of something you believe God gave you.

Satan is not the finisher of your faith, and if trials and tests perfected faith, satan would be the finisher of it. Hebrews 12:2 declares that Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith.

GOD IS NOT THE TEMPTER

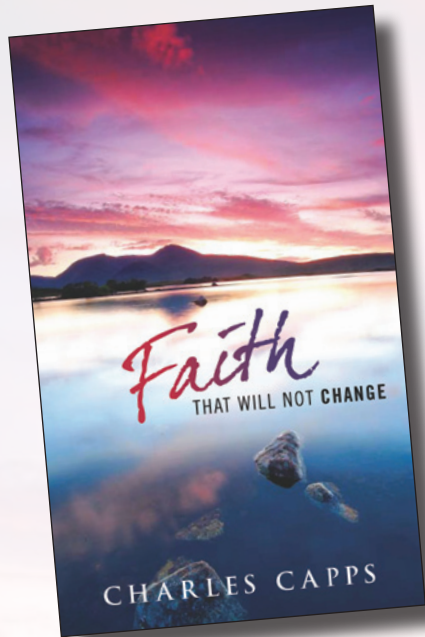
Let me call your attention to something Jesus said when He was teaching His disciples principles

of prayer. "*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.*" (Matthew 6:9-10) Just stop and ask yourself this question: Is it God's will that we be tested and tried in heaven? The answer is obvious. There will be no tests or trials there. Then that must be God's will for the earth.

In Matthew 26:41, Jesus said to His disciples, "*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation....*" Evidently you can avoid temptations, tests, and trials by watching and praying. Most of the time we get into trials and temptations by not doing what Jesus said to do to avoid them.

The word temptation in James 1:2, "*...count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations,*" and in verse 13, "*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God....*" is the same word translated trial and test in other parts of the New Testament. Let's paraphrase it: "Let no man say that it is God doing the tempting and trying: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man."

"*Do not err, my beloved brethren.*" Or as we would say, do not be misled. "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*" (James 1:16-17) The word shadow here speaks of less light, or



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Just memorizing and quoting scriptures is not enough to cause Christians to have the Word working effectively in their lives. There are those who can quote scriptures, but do not understand the meaning of them or how to apply them in real life. In order to create change, understanding and enlightenment of the human spirit is required—working knowledge!

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darkness. There is never any gradual turning from that which is good and perfect. God is not guilty of using evil or darkness to perfect you.

TWO FORCES AT WORK

The Father is the giver of all good. In John 10:10, Jesus said, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life..."* Thank God that He came to bring life, not trials. There are two opposing forces: the force of evil and the force of righteousness. The force of evil steals, kills and destroys. If you let him, satan will steal your faith, kill your testimony, and destroy your health. He'll do anything to destroy you. The force of righteousness is from God who gave Jesus to provide life more abundantly. This force works for you; the other works against you. The force working against you is in no way working for you. You can write that down. That opposing force is not working a good in you. It was designed to destroy your faith and to keep you from pleasing God. That is the design of satan.

Jesus said you could avoid some of those temptations by watching and praying: "And lead us not into temptation," or "Lead us not into any way that we would be tempted, tested, or tried." If testing and trials would perfect their faith, I wonder why Jesus didn't know it? He is the author of our faith.

Now, if Jesus authored your faith, don't you know that He does not have

to try it to see if it will work? General Motors wouldn't be so foolish to build a car, sell it to someone, and then try it out to see if it would run. When their trademark goes on it, they know that it will work. It has already been proven. Jesus authored your faith.

It is His faith. It has already been tried and proven; it works. He never did make any unworthy workmanship. We are His workmanship; He authored us and our faith. (Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 12:2)

LACK OF WORD EQUALS LACK OF FAITH

How does faith come? Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). A lack of faith is caused from a lack of the Word. Christians have a lack of faith because the Word does not abide in them. If God's Word is in you, faith is there. If satan comes along with his smoke screen and says, "This is God trying and testing you," most people will just melt and have a pity party. They cry, "Why me, Lord?"

Don't allow satan to bring every bad thing that comes down the road to you. *"Neither give place to the devil."* (Ephesians 4:27) It is not God perfecting you. Many books have been written out of self-pity and defeat. Many people fall under the attack of satan, and say, "It must be God perfecting me." That is a cop-out. It is easier to blame God than

to admit that we failed to act on the Word. This kind of thinking is a devastating blow to anyone's faith. It will stop your faith from working.

Your faith will fail to produce when you fall for satan's lies. It was not the law of faith that failed - you failed to apply the law because of lack of knowledge.

WHAT YOU ALLOW, GOD WILL ALLOW

When you feel one of those pity parties coming on and want to feel sorry for yourself, you can mark it down: satan is on your case. If he can get you to feel sorry for yourself, your reaction usually is, "Oh, Lord, why did you allow this to happen to me?" That's a foolish question. God will allow anything you will allow. He'll let you rob a bank if you want to. God will allow you to go to hell if you want to. You are foolish if you do either one, but God will allow it. It's sure not His will, but He will allow you to do it.

The Bible says that Jesus came and died that all would be saved and none would be lost (John 3:16), but God will still let you go to hell if you want to. The decision is yours, not God's. This is where we have missed it. Somebody said, "God allowed it; so it must have been His will." Nothing could be further from the truth. That is a lie of satan. Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, but it wasn't God's will. It couldn't have been, because God

told Adam not to do it. The decision was Adam's. God allows sin, but He is certainly not in favor of it. God allows sickness, but it is not His will.

Many banks are robbed every month, but we don't accuse the chief of police, the mayor, or the governor of doing it or even allowing it in their state. Yes, it happened during their administration, but it is misplaced blame to say they did it or allowed it. A criminal person made the decision to commit a felony. The bank is responsible for having security measures in place to withstand the attack of an enemy. Ultimately it is the devil, and evil that is to blame.

Religious thinking says God is to blame for allowing things to happen to us. God is against sin, sickness, and suffering of every kind. But just like the bank, we are responsible to put measures into place to withstand the enemy. Put on the whole armor of God! Don't allow the enemy access to your home, business, or body.

The most devastating blow to your faith is to believe that your Father God is the source of your problems. A true knowledge of God's Word and understanding of Jesus' earthly ministry will reveal that God is a good loving Father. Faith works by love! (Galatians 5:6)

**This article is taken from the book, "Faith That Will Not Change."*



BreAnne

Recommendations From our Staff:

HOW TO SUCCEED WHEN OTHERS FAIL

Every time I listen to this teaching, "How to Succeed When Others Fail," I am encouraged and motivated to strengthen my faith and relationship with God.

Storms will come in our lives, but they do not come to make us stronger, instead we become strong by God's Word and can weather any storm. Have you ever heard of someone pouring a concrete foundation in a storm? In the same way, we should build our faith and foundation in God's Word now so that it is already solid before any storms come! Here are just a few of the topics covered in this teaching:

- Doing the sayings of Jesus to build a strong foundation
- Why you should base your beliefs on God's Word instead of other people's teachings and experiences.
- Learning where storms and trials really come from.
- How to build your Faith for Forgiveness
- The power of your faith-filled or doubt-filled words
- Calling things that are not to change your situation

I recommend this teaching to anyone who wants to stay standing no matter what happens in the world around them, and anyone who wants encouragement in their walk with the Lord.



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*BreAnne is the Creative Director of Capps Ministries, and is the granddaughter of Charles and Peggy.

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Praise & Worship

By Peggy Capps

I Chronicles 16:29, *“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”*

As I was meditating about a very uplifting and meaningful worship service, the Lord brought to my attention the songs that were used in that service and the words of those songs. I began to see the importance as never before of watching the words of the songs we sing.

We have always been very careful about the words of our conversation and the words we say in prayer, but what about the WORDS of some of the songs we sing? This seems to be one area that we have not been as diligent in as the others.

I have been in church and chosen to sing in the spirit rather than sing, *“Break me Lord, bring me low..I am hopeless, weary...I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross.”* (Excuse me if that was your favorite song but we need to cling to the life giving power of the resurrected Christ.)

Just as the words we speak are seeds planted in our hearts, so are the words of the songs we sing. The world is very aware of the impact of songs and music on the lives of people. If you haven't noticed this, watch TV for a while and you will



see how the commercials go after the children especially! I remember when one of our grandchildren was small and staying at our house for a visit. When a certain singing commercial came on TV, he would race from another room to the television to see it.

You have to watch yourself if you hear a “catchy” song several times a day or you will be singing it too. That is why it was written, to get your attention and to sell you on a product. Those who market the product know that those words will go over and over in your mind and produce for them by your desiring whatever that product may be.

When you hear and hear, that is how the word gets into your heart. This is how God made us. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith cometh by hearing and hearing and hearing.

When we come to worship God, we need to watch our selection of songs and be sure the words are uplifting and magnify God, not give credit to the devil!

The psalmist David was very aware of this principle. In Psalm 19:14 he said, *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

Psalm 107:2, *“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...”*

Psalm 52:2-4, David said, *“The tongue devises wickedness like a sharp razor, working deceitfully, loving evil more than good and lying rather than to speak righteousness, justice and right. You love all destroying and devouring words, O deceitful tongue.”*

It seems David understood the words we speak can cause us problems if they are not God's words. He understood the power of words, either good words or negative words. We shouldn't sing perverse songs. God told the children of Israel, *“I will do what you say in my ear.”* Numbers 14:28

In Acts 16:25, we see Paul and Silas praying and singing praises to God while they are in stocks in jail. If there was ever an opportunity to be saying the wrong words and not singing praises, I believe this could have been one! But their praises brought them deliverance and your praises and right confessions of what God has said about you will bring your deliverance too!

Paul and Silas could have chosen to sing from their own human emotions about being persecuted for Jesus, tested and tried but what good

would that do? Instead they praised God for His Omnipotence and Glory, for who He is and what He has done. This is what we should sing! What a difference, singing, *“Glory and praise be to Him who reigns forever!”* Sing that phrase out loud now. How does that compare to singing, *“Break me Lord, bring me low..”* If you choose to sing that out loud, notice the difference in how you feel as you say those words.

Hebrews 2:12 is speaking of Jesus saying, *“I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”* This is a prophecy from Psalm 22:22.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:35, *“A good man from his inner good treasure flings forth good things and the evil man out of his inner evil storehouse flings forth evil things.”* Jesus goes on to say we will give account for every idle (inoperative, non-working) word we speak. By your words you will be condemned and sentenced.

When we come together for a worship and praise service, let's be sure to make it worship and praise to God and not the enemy.

I Chronicles 16:8-9, *“O give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name. Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders.”*

Let's make sure all of the words coming out of our mouths glorify God and bring all His blessings upon us.



The Guidance of the Holy Spirit

by Annette Capps

Wouldn't it be nice to have a personal guide, someone who would watch over you and be sure that you always made the right decisions in life? You would have your own personal financial advisor, family counselor, and mediator. If this person was trustworthy, you could listen to their advice – knowing that they had your best interest at heart.

We do have such a guide and He dwells in us and is with us at all times. His wisdom is always available. All we have to do is learn to listen and respond appropriately.

Jesus said in John 16:13, *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."*

The disciples were dependent on Jesus to help them understand spiritual truths as well as everyday

life. When Jesus left, the Holy Spirit came to dwell with us and in us so that we have access to all the wisdom of God.

"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:17

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in the person of the Holy Spirit and He dwells within us! Paying attention to our inward witness (some call this intuition) can prevent tragedy in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit and through that inner knowing we can follow His guidance.

4 WAYS WE CAN BE GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Each person is unique and the guidance we receive is unique to us. The four areas I want to discuss are:

1. Knowing
2. Seeing (Vision)
3. Hearing (Auditory)
4. Feeling (Kinesthetic)

Knowing or inward witness is one of the most difficult to describe because knowledge is simply a concept. It is not physical, nor can you really physically describe it. When you "know" something, you just know it. Many times I have had this "knowing" about certain people. I've either known they were of a good spirit, or sometimes I've just known they were not to be trusted, something was amiss. How do you explain that? The Holy Spirit certainly knows all things, but I did not hear a voice or have a vision. I did not seek an "answer," rather this was just an instantaneous knowledge that was transmitted and I received it.

My personal opinion is that people carry their "stuff" with them all the time. Their "stuff" could be all the decisions they have made, all the acts they have committed, their beliefs, thoughts, and motives. They wear these like clothes. Sometimes this "stuff" appears in their physical features. Have you ever looked at someone and thought, "Boy, have they had a hard life!" You could see it on their face.

The power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word can make changes in someone from the inside out. I have met Christians who lived horrible lives in the past, but you can't see it or know it, because they have totally let go of the past. It is no longer with them.

The real challenge with "knowing" is to remain non-judgmental even when you "know" things. Knowing will help protect you and guide you to make the right decisions, but it is not helpful to use that knowledge to judge another person's life. Just observe and move on.

Also be aware that what a person carries with them right now could be different a year from now depending on their spiritual growth and ability to let go of old beliefs, motives and thought processes. Part of the "stuff" we carry with us that is perceptible to everyone's "knower" is the intangible beliefs and thoughts. When a person carries a "victim-mentality," others perceive this, especially perpetrators who victimize others. That is one of the reasons that the cycles repeat themselves.

Through knowing or sensing what is surrounding another person, we can avoid many pitfalls and not become involved with the wrong person.

KNOWING ABOUT SITUATIONS

Many years ago, my ministry was growing and the employees were in need of more space for work and filling orders. There was a church in town that we were all associated with and had held meetings there as well as being friends with the lady who was the pastor. The church needed to move out of the building but there was a year left on the lease. I suggested that my ministry could sublease the building, relieving them, and giving

us more space. Everyone was thrilled with this prospect, however, when it was time to sign the papers; I suddenly had a very unsettling feeling about the process. It felt like a large, heavy rock was in my stomach. I couldn't get past it, so I backed out of the deal. Later I found out that there were liens and outstanding debts that I would have been obligated to pay if I had signed those papers. Thank God for the warning!

Sometimes situations will present themselves in your life that look good, sound good, and feel good. But somewhere in the process things change and you no longer have peace about it. When this happens, STOP. Either you don't have enough information, the timing is wrong, or something has changed. It is a mistake to think that if you have a leading about a situation, you can jump right in. In every part of the process, it is imperative to listen for the Holy Spirit.

You could know that it would be right for you to refinance your house, but after completing the application, you don't feel quite the same. Slow down and see what is going on. Is it the right timing? What if you waited 3-4 weeks and the interest rates went down? Is this the mortgage company that is right for you? You may delay for a week and find out you have been promoted on your job which entails a relocation. Often the Holy Spirit will give you the answer before you even know the question! Something is missing or something is not quite right. That doesn't mean that your "knower" didn't work, it just means

that things will work out in a different way than you thought. A negative knowing is just as valuable as a positive knowing. If you don't feel exactly right, don't do it!

AVERTING TRAGEDY

John 16:13 tells us that the Holy Spirit will tell us or show us things to come. I am convinced He always tries to warn us of things ahead of time if we will listen. I was teaching in a convention in California when I had a sudden urgent feeling that someone in my family was in danger. I excused myself from the dinner table and went to the hotel room and began to pray in the Spirit. It was then that I knew I was praying for my sister Beverly and her children. I asked for the Holy Spirit and the angels to intervene for her protection. When I called, I found that as my sister was traveling in Arkansas, her car narrowly avoided a fatal accident at that exact time.

One of the ways that I know the difference between ordinary fear and an impression of the Holy Spirit to pray for protection is that it is totally unexpected. If you are watching the evening news about terrorism and start having a bad feeling about going on vacation, then it's hard to decipher whether you are worried because of the negative news report or the Holy Spirit is trying to warn you.

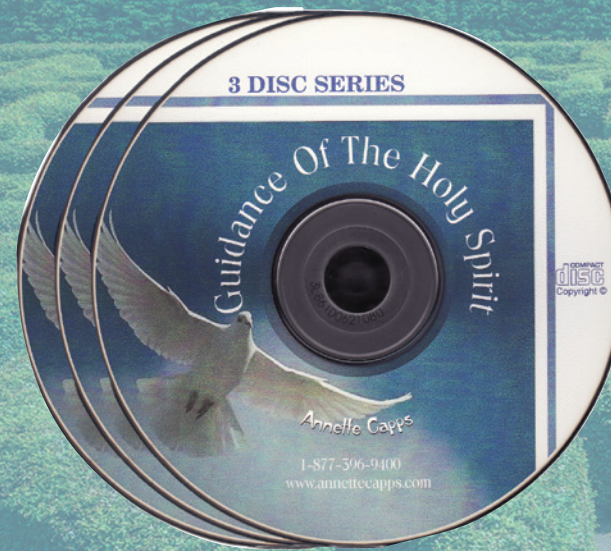
Staying neutral is the best place for being able to tell the difference. Don't saturate yourself with negativity in any form. If you are loaded down with negative thoughts and feelings all the time, how can you know when

you are "checked" in your spirit, or receive a warning? By staying neutral, peaceful in your life, you are more open to the leadings of the Spirit.

When you have a leading to proceed in any matter, get as much information as you can. The information may or may not affect your final decision, but it may allow you to clear out problems before they grow to an unmanageable size. When I attempted to sublease that church building, I was faced with paying off debts I did not incur. If I had checked this out thoroughly, I would have

obtained that information. Instead, I went on the positive feeling that was being generated. (I think this positive feeling was the pastor and employees relief and excitement that I felt.) Fortunately, even in my ignorance, the Holy Spirit got through to me. I almost overrode that because I did not want to disappoint everyone. That would have been a high price to pay to make others happy!

This is such an important issue in life. In the next Concepts of Faith, I will continue this teaching on the 4 ways of the Holy Spirit's leading.



Guidance of the Holy Spirit

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