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Now is the Time: Now is the Time to Develop a First-Hand Faith
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Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV): LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known…

Key #1: A First-Hand Faith Is Always Rooted in Obedience to the Word of God!

Joshua 1:1-3 (NIV): After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses."

Joshua 1:6 (NIV): "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them."

Joshua 1:10-11 (NIV): So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"

Romans 10:17 (NKJV): So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV): Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Matthew 28:19 (NIV): "…go and make disciples…"

Mark 16:15 (NIV): …"Go into all the world and preach the gospel…"

Luke 15:7 (NIV): "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Key #2: A First-Hand Faith Always Seeks to Move in Accordance with the Will of God!

Joshua 3:3-4 (NIV 1984): …"When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before…"

Joshua 3:6 (NIV 1984): Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NIV 1984): …that our God…by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him…

1 Samuel 10:7 (NIV): "…do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you."

Key #3: A First-Hand Faith Always Takes Steps That Are Consistent with the Ways of God!

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV): …Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Joshua 3:11-13 (NIV 1984): "See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD… set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."

Joshua 3:14-17 (NIV 1984): So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing… The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Acts 13:2 (NIV): …"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."