



Empowering People to Change the World

## **Faith Builders IV: Active Obedience**

Steve Holt

# 1 John 5:4 | Supplements for Spiritual Energy 4-Active Obedience Supplement

## The Road Worship

11-01-14

- Antiphonal Reading
- Worship Song (Rachel Terry)
- **Announcements (Steve)**
- **Message (Steve)**
- Worship Song (Rachel)
- **Communion (Steve)**
- Worship Songs 3 (Rachel) while people are taking communion
- Benediction (Steve)

### **Announce:**

1. Youth Discipleship
2. Discipleship packets
3. Road Map, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9pm

### **Our vision at The Road is the “building of wholehearted disciples of Jesus,” So, how do we Build up our Faith?**

- It’s similar to how we build up and maintain our physical body with vitamin supplements. Your body needs certain vitamins and enzymes to be strong

- I want to talk about “Faith supplements” that will build up your heart
- Spiritual homeopathics

### **1 John 5:4**

**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**

**Review the past few weeks:**

- 1) “Rhema Word Supplement.” God’s Word builds up our Faith. It is the Vitamin C of Faith...**
- 2) “Spirit Prayer Supplement” Praying in the Spirit builds up our Faith**
- 3) Last week, “Friendship Supplement” we absolutely must be around, hang out with, faith-building people**

### ***James 2:14***

***What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.***

***18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?***

Martin Luther, the great reformer of grace once said, “We are saved by faith alone, but not faith that is alone”

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Faith Builder, supplement for spiritual energy:

#### **4) Active Obedience—an obedience that acts on what God is telling you to do**

- People who have faith, ACT, their faith propels them into action
- **Verse 22 “Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?”**
- “working together” is the Greek, *sunergeo*, where we get the word “synergism”
- There is this kingdom principle of faith and our action working together in harmony—the vertical relationship with Christ and the horizontal relationship with people that must work together synergistically for your faith to grow
- If you say you have faith in Christ but can’t ever get along with people, something is wrong with your faith!
- The Faith Supplement is ACTIVE OBEDIENCE which often means we do things that we don’t feel like doing, but we simply are obeying God, trusting God to minister to someone, to step out and help
- Ex. I know a man in our fellowship who felt God was calling him to reach out to his neighbors with God’s love. So, he proactively began getting to know his neighbors and building friendships with them...
- God is so committed to seeing our faith grow through works, that he has given us an entire chapter of the Bible just on the men and women of the Bible who are testimonies to us of active obedience
- Hebrew 11...(Read from hardcopy Bible)

- We have the book of Acts in the New Testament. It is called Acts because they acted! We are called by God to act upon our faith
- Ex. Many of you are starting D Groups now, and one of the key elements we talk about is the “Go” part...



So this is the GO aspect of being a disciple. The going part of doing what Jesus did.

How do we grow in Active Obedience?

### **Trusting in and Acting upon, the Promises of God.**

- 2 Peter, “have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature”
- When we trust in the promises of God, we become partakers of the divine nature
- Then we act upon the promises, the rhema word from God. You believe it and you act upon it
- Faith is seeing something twice! Faith is always about

creating something in your heart and then in your life

- **Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
- **Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**
- Faith is seeing the promise from God twice. One is seeing it in your heart, the other is seeing it through your action
- Active Obedience is based on imagination--the ability to envision in your mind what you cannot at present see with your eyes. It is based on the principle that all things are created twice.
  - There is a heart (first) creation—a promise from God, a word from him of something, and then, when we act on that promise, a physical (second) creation.
  - The physical creation follows the spiritual creation, just as a building follows a blueprint.
  - Ex. God may give you a vision for starting a company and he gives you a promise of his grace and power in your endeavor and you “see it” with your heart. It’s created in your heart, but then you must “act upon” it. You must have active obedience.
  - If you don't make a conscious effort to act by faith through obeying the promises of God, then you empower other people and circumstances to shape you and your life by default. That is Reactive! You become what everyone else wants you to be become.
  - This is proactive faith—Active Obedience! You must take charge of your life through obeying God’s promises

- When you act on what God has told you to do, you build up your faith! That's what our passage is saying,
  - Hebrew 11:22, ***Do you see that faith was working together (sunergeo) with his works, and by works faith was made perfect***
  - “Working together,” synergy of faith and works. You hear from God in your heart, you then step out by faith and your act of faith strengthens your heart of faith
  - Heart Faith working with Feet Faith!
  - Ex. God tells me to go and reconcile with a person I have offended (heart) and then I call that person, we meet, we work it out, Feet faith! I come away strengthened in my faith
  - Ex. God speaks to me to start a C Group or a D Group and I step out and do it. Heart Faith working with Feet Faith
  - Ex. Some of you are having issues with your children and you need to step out and spend proactive intentional relational time with your kids
- This is real discipleship. This is truly what sets us apart from the world—doing what we say we believe
  - Discipleship is not saying what we believe but doing what we believe. The more we do what we believe the less we need to say it because everyone can see what we believe
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer referred to faith without works as “cheap grace”
  - He wrote, “Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner...Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap

grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.” p. 47 Cost of Discipleship

- “Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life and it is grace because it gives man the only true life.” Ibid.
- Active Obedience defines the disciple and makes you an enemy to the ways of the world! Contra Mundum. Against the world
- Faith is built up by acts of faith, acting on the promises of God!

### **What is God saying to you tonight?**

- Lets take a few minutes to listen. I want the worship team to come up and play in the background while we have a few minutes of silence
- Ask Jesus, “Lord, is there some act of obedience that you’re calling me to? Speak to me and I will obey.”