

Today's Lesson
Dynamic Faith
PowerPoint notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

Dynamic Faith

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Dynamic Faith

Charles R. Fillmore
Co-founder of Unity

It's no accident that Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, assigned the activity of faith as the first attribute and power in his book, The Twelve Powers of Man. It is also the focus of our spiritual prayer work during the month of January.

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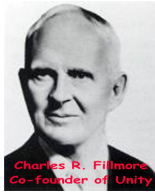
He wrote: It is said that "Faith is assurance of things hoped for." When there has been an aspiration and a reaching out for the spiritual life, the faith faculty becomes active in consciousness, and the prayer of affirmation is immediately effective.

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Before he met Jesus, Peter was called Simon. Simon means "hearing," which represents receptivity. We understand from this that listening to Truth in a receptive state of mind opens the way for receiving the next degree in the divine order process, which is faith.

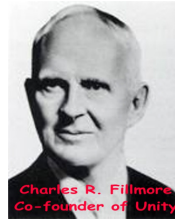
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Upon revealing the Truth to Jesus, Jesus gave Simon his new name, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock (faith) I will build my church." Faith in the reality of the invisible builds a real abiding substance in mind and in body.

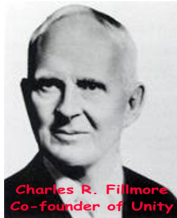
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It is from this Truth that we discover the Jesus Doctrine of Faith. Jesus taught that all ruling forces of both heaven and earth are at our command and can be found within us:

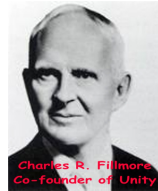
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*The kingdom of God is within you.
Is it not written in your law, I said, "Ye are gods?"
The things I have done you will do also, and greater will you do.*

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There is but one real faith; the avenue of expression determines the character and power of faith. So let's be clear that faith is not trust. For if we just trust God we do not have a complete understanding of the law. Understanding faith says, *I affirm the presence and power of God in my life.*

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It is this rock like faith that established Unity's Five Spiritual Principles:
God the Good.
The Christ Within
Law of Mind Action
Prayer & Meditation
Put Faith Into Action

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Responsive Reading

Minister:

As Jesus stated, "I of myself can do nothing, it is the Father who sent me that does the work."

Congregation:

I surrender to the living Christ Spirit of God and respond to life with the acknowledgment that I can do all things through the Christ Spirit which strengthens me.

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Responsive Reading

Minister:

And God created them, male and female,
in God's own image.

Congregation:

I am God's beloved child. The image of
God as the living Christ Spirit in me
helps me to express and manifest God's
good in my life and affairs.

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Responsive Reading

Minister:

When asked about forgiveness Jesus said,
"Forgive seventy times seven."

Congregation:

Through the living Christ Spirit I forgive
myself and others. I willingly admit and
release all mistakes and negative
emotions which I may have directed
towards myself and others.

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Responsive Reading

Minister:

Then Jesus said, "When you pray go within
and close the door and pray to God who is
in secret."

Congregation:

I speak directly to the Lord of my Being in
an attitude of complete faith in prayer and
meditation. As I pray, and renew my
mind, I am aware of the living Spirit of
Christ guiding and directing me to my
highest and best.

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Responsive Reading

Minister:

And Jesus said, "Give and it will be given
you...ask, seek, knock and the door will
be opened...for it is the Father's good
pleasure to give you the kingdom."

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Responsive Reading

Congregation:

I willingly, cheerfully, joyfully and lovingly
give of my time, talents, and treasures.
And as I give I also receive in
consciousness the highest and best God
has for me, and I am filled with
gratitude. I give thanks now that all my
needs are met—spiritual, physical, and
emotional.

Dynamic Faith

Burning Bowl Contemplation

You are invited to take a few moments to
reflect on the past year and offer up to Spirit
those things you want to change and/or
enhance in the coming year.

It's an opportunity for you to set in motion
the desires of your heart to be expressed in
your life and affairs through exercising your
dynamic faith.

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Closing Affirmation

This is a new year, filled with wonderful opportunities. I am positive, expectant, and faith-filled. I am open to God's direction and confident that whatever lies before me will be for my highest good. And so it is!