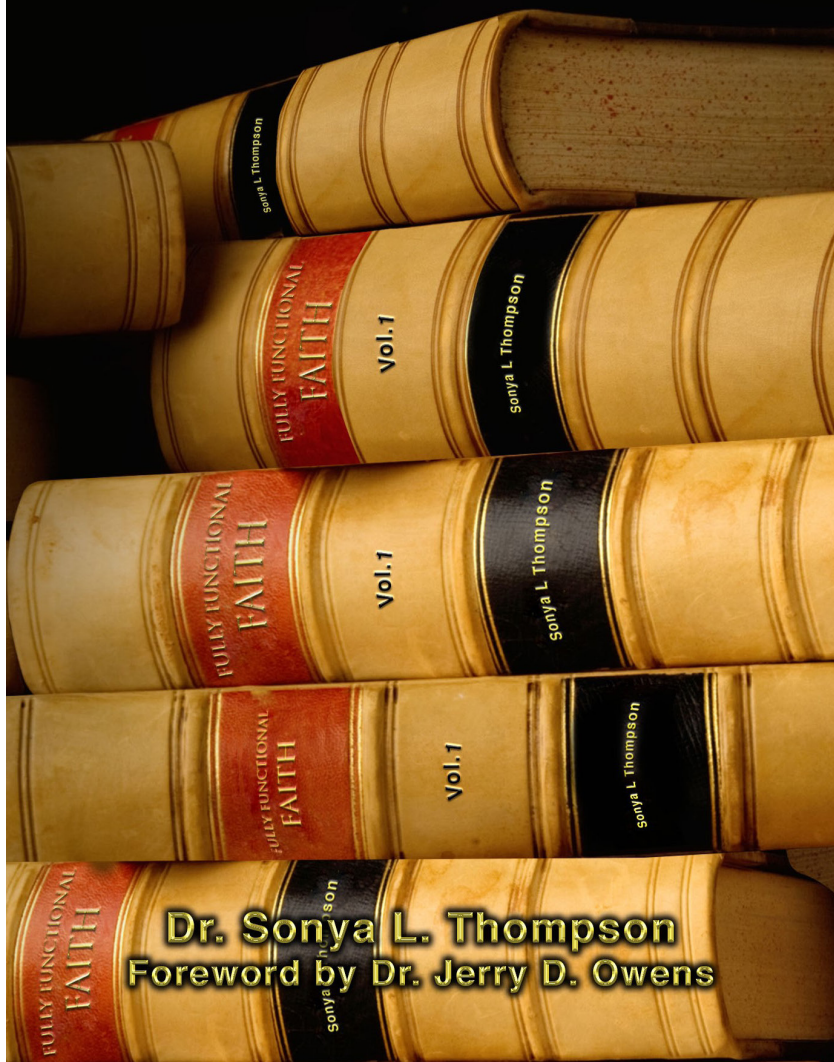


Fully Functional FAITH

A Case For Faith - Vol. 1



Dr. Sonya L. Thompson
Foreword by Dr. Jerry D. Owens

Fully Functional Faith- A Case for Faith— Volume 1

By: Dr. Sonya L. Thompson

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DEDICATION

To the memory of my grandmother, Cora Neal. The impact she had on my life is priceless. How I miss her and wish she could be here to share this moment with me. But, I rest assured that the Lord has shown her my favorable outcome. I can still hear her saying, "Sonya, you can do it!" Lord, thank you for the legacy this mighty woman of God has left me!

FOREWORD

The most powerful force in the earth is man's will. The most powerful force in the spirit realm is **FAITH!** Pastor Sonya Thompson explains and instructs us in this small yet powerful volume of Faith. There is a prophetic element to these volumes that dives into our future and returns to our present to fully prepare us for what's to come. While reading this book, there is a reoccurring word that will snatch you into the next level of living. That word is FOUNDATION. As you read this book, dispel every myth and religious ideology you have concerning faith.

After reading this volume your expectations of God manifesting into your life will increase. Open your mind and prepare your spirit. Get ready for your faith to soar. This is your moment to **FULLY FUNCTION** in your faith!

Dr. Jerry D. Owens

INTRODUCTION

When building a home, we are generally more concerned or focused on surface things, like the carpet, cabinets, fixtures, colors, etc. But one of the most important aspects of its structure is the foundation. We don't typically put much or ANY emphasis on the foundation, because we assume the builder realizes how very vital it is to the longevity and integrity of our house. Because the foundation of a home carries its weight, it must be built to last. If it's built on shifty or wet soil, it will not last! It also must be built on the right soil. We would not want the builder to cut corners in laying our foundation and cover up his laziness with wood, drywall and grass. If that were done, when the house starts to settle, we would quickly realize its lack of stability and security.

The example above was used to give you a visual picture of the importance of your faith. When
it

comes to the foundation of faith, just like the natural builder, you must realize how vital it is to the longevity and integrity of your life. This is not an area where you want to cut corners. Many believers have focused on the surface benefits of Scripture and have not put much or any time into ensuring that a stable, secure and integral foundation of faith has been laid to hold up their lives! Like a house that settles, when the settling of life happens, your foundations will be revealed. Your faith is sure to find you out. Faith is not meant to be used just to get light bills and rent paid, it is meant to influence the flow of our lives. How is it we are using our faith to pursue and procure benefits which are guaranteed, if we seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first? I would call this an unintentional misappropriation of faith for sure!

As far as God is concerned, there's no other way to live a full and vigorous life outside of faith. You can't please Him or conduct transactions between the natural and spiritual realm without it. As you continue in these volumes, you will quickly come to the realization that faith is the cornerstone of your life. Everything concerning your life should flow through and be undergirded by it. So, fasten your seatbelt and stay on board for the ride of your life. When we are done, you can rest assured, this foundation will be strengthened, and you will operate in **Fully Functional Faith!**

CHAPTER 1

A CASE FOR FAITH

It was towards the end of 2016 when the Holy Spirit spoke to me saying, “The body of Christ needs to shore up its foundations, because we are not ready for what lies ahead in the next few years.” In other words, we need to get back to the simple yet powerful kingdom truth of the Gospel which has been proven to shift and change lives. I’m talking about a possession of faith, which should be evidenced by changed lives, cities, regions and territories! There’s an emergency mandate from Heaven in this hour to shore up this foundation.

FAITH is one of the most critical, glanced over, and misunderstood topics in the body of Christ. Everything in our lives hinges on our ability to purposefully and effectively function in faith. Unbelievably, because many in the five-fold offices have not discerned

this incredible need, profound revelation is still being released into the lives of people who are not solid on the foundational principle of faith and as a result, are unable to prove, by manifestation, what they are receiving. The church body is so hungry for new revelation. We want to hear something new and exciting, while the foundations are in shambles. If this foundation is not strengthened, we will suffer tremendously in the upcoming years of persecution, political upheaval, economic downfall and natural disasters. I'm not here to bring doom and gloom, but I am here to awaken you from your slumber and call you back to this foundation of the Gospel which strengthened the cloud of witnesses before us, causing a global upheaval for the kingdom of God.

I can see crystal clear, a body of people who talk well about the Word, get very excited about it, and have memorized some verses of Scripture; but, don't have the capacity to put it together in a functional manner for everyday living. As a result, we don't look like the giant in the earth we are supposed to be! Therefore, people find themselves having to get to a "place" where somebody can pray for their healing, give them a prophetic word for their life or address whatever their impending need is. Let me also add, the proof of faith goes far beyond seeing healing miracles manifest. This is where many put a great

emphasis upon but do not apply the same emphasis when it comes to faith for daily living. Please let me make this statement for anyone who may try to misinterpret what I just said. Make no mistake about it, the manifestation of healing miracles is **NECESSARY** and is expected when the Gospel of the kingdom is preached. It's a benefit for those who are its citizens and is an indication to non-believers that we serve a Living God.

My ministry is characterized by healing miracles, but I also put equal emphasis on teaching and applying the Word of God to all areas as well. How can we be in a place where we see cancers healed, limbs grow out, tumors shrink etc., but can't pay our bills, overcome strongholds, have a successful marriage and so forth? We should not be pursuing one side and leave the other side scarcely or barely attended to! This takes us to a very important word the body of Christ needs to hear in this hour — ***balance***. The continuous teaching of foundational principles guarantees a spiritual house and life that is in full balance with the Word of God.

Manifestations of where we're from, and whose we are should be the norm for EVERY believer; not only in the confines of a church building. The supernatural working of God's dunamis (miracle working)

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power should be evident in our personal lives and in the marketplace as well. However, it often appears that believers are surprised when faith manifestations occur, because of what I like to call “faith accidents.” When we operate in fully functional faith, we should **NEVER** be surprised but always in awe of the manifestation of the Word in our lives and the lives of those we minister to. To operate at this level of faith, it’s imperative we as individuals, teachers and preachers, sit with the Holy Spirit and permit Him to instruct us as to what true and pure Biblical faith is. We can’t be so quick to define a subject, which is the cornerstone of our lives.

CHAPTER 2

THE VERDICT IS IN

Many of our brothers and sisters in the faith attest to walking in and living by faith, but the overall evidence denies such a claim. Our regions, territories, and nation is delivering a different testimony. The verdict against us is in: guilty as charged. Guilty of not preaching the gospel of the kingdom, guilty of not living pure and integral lives, guilty of not being able to intentionally and consistently manifest the signs and wonders conferred upon us in the Word of God. Guilty of not implementing a kingdom culture which mirrors the kingdom of Heaven. The condition of things around us is the prevailing evidence which supports this verdict.

How can I make such a bold and confident statement? When we look in the book of Acts, we see the beginning of something incredible, contagious, pow-

erful, uncontrollable and uncontainable, fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit! In Acts chapter seventeen, there is an account of the Jews gathering evil men from the marketplace to make an assault on Jason's home because they were looking to kill Paul and Silas. When they could not find them, they instead dragged Jason and some other men to the rulers of the city and leveled an accusation against Paul and Silas which should be the accusation against us, on the lips of everyone in our region and territories who do not name the name of Christ!

"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too!"

(Acts 17:6)

When was the last time we heard words like this spoken against the body of Christ? When was the last time someone rose up in anger and stated that we were literally turning our cities, schools, economy and the government system upside down? On the contrary, believers are in a state of having their lives being turned upside down instead of their world or sphere of influence being turned upside down for the kingdom. This is because the foundation of faith

needs to be shored up — supported or strengthened. Again, I say the verdict is in. We are guilty as charged.

EXPUNGING OUR RECORD

When a legal record of arrest or a criminal case is “sealed” or erased in the eyes of the law, it is said to be expunged. Different states or counties have different laws which much be met to obtain an expungement. Also, in many cases, but not in all, the arrest or conviction does not ever need to be disclosed by the person who was arrested. Obviously, this process takes a great deal of time and may have some other requirements which I have not mentioned. Likewise, our deficiency in the area of faith can’t and will no longer be overlooked; it must be dealt with and the guilty verdict erased or sealed up.

The key to coming out of any state or situation in life is first recognizing where you are. When the Word of God confronts us, it finds us and identifies where we are. As God did with Adam, He is calling out to the body of Christ, “Where are you?” God is not asking this question because He doesn’t know where we are. This is a question posed so that we can locate ourselves in light of the Word of God. We have covered our situations with fig leaves long enough. It’s time to come out of hiding and say, “Here I am, I am

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ready to have my faith strengthened. I am ready to walk in fully functional faith. I'm ready for the guilt concerning my case and all impending evidence to be expunged." We can and will reverse this guilty verdict as we once again strengthen the foundation of faith!

CHAPTER 3

THE FORWARD MOTION OF FAITH

It's time for a motion to go forth to the court of heaven if we want our record to be wiped clean. We must begin re-laying and shoring up our foundation of faith and get moving. We can then present our manifestation as proof to the presiding judge of the universe — the Lord Jesus Christ, that we are taking the necessary steps to have this guilty verdict removed.

Let's begin our journey in the book of Romans.

***For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,
"The just shall live by faith***

(ROMANS 1:17).

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God's righteousness, His way of being and doing right, is revealed from faith to faith. What does this mean to you and me? The force of faith is the starting point of the movement of the Word of God. It provides the spark to set the Gospel of the kingdom into motion. It's the **ONLY** way to bring the kingdom of God into natural view! Faith is the **ONLY** way to embrace and participate in the ways and things of God. Furthermore, the **ONLY** way to see God's way of doing and being right, revealed, uncovered or manifested is through **FAITH**! Beloved, you can't even have a relationship with Jesus outside of the confines of faith! A lot of believers can't figure out the ways of God because they have not understood or are not living a life characterized and propelled by the faith of God! We will never know the ways of God outside of a life characterized by faith. It's really pretty simple; if you want what God says you can have, be and do, then you must operate in the proper boundaries and principles **which pull heaven into the earth atmosphere.** We can only attain to this by operating in fully functional faith.

Romans further says, "the just," that's you and me, shall (are expected to and must) **live by faith**. Everything concerning our lives must pass through and be undergirded by faith. We must live, move and have our being in/through faith. One of the examples

the Lord gave me was the image of a moving airport escalator or walkway. The beautiful thing about this moving walkway is you can seemingly be walking normal, but the movement of the escalator under your feet is like a supernatural force which pushes you forward and advances you to your destination much faster than those who decide to walk under *normal* means. Just like the moving walkway, faith is designed to make your walk easier! Faith is the super on your natural efforts; and when it's operating properly, it makes a symphonious sound and rhythm between the spiritual and natural realm, which results in manifestation.

In the airport, we must eventually walk off the walkway and transition back into the mainstream of travel. The world's advantage is only a temporary one, but the moving walkway given to us by God is available as long as we choose to stay on it! There shouldn't be any jumping off this walkway of faith. After all, why would anyone desire to do that anyway? You must be determined to stay in this forward motion until you see Him face to face.

There are many believers who always appear to be progressing, manifesting the kingdom and moving forward, because they have the force of faith under their feet. Those on the "spiritual walkway" of

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faith realize it's a whole lot easier to get to the desired destination when they pair the supernatural force of faith with their natural efforts. Then there's this other group of believers who seem like they are constantly trying to overcome the same issues and are always in the same spot where you left them before. This is their experience because they continue trying to advance by natural means. The strange thing about the latter group is, they will tell you they're definitely living a faith guided life. However, a brief conversation and observation will generally uncover what is hindering their faith walk.

As you can and will see, faith is not a stagnant force. On the contrary, you will quickly realize, it's an active and powerful force which is available to all who are in or enter into the kingdom of God. Faith has a forward motion! It connected you to Jesus for your salvation and it is the master key to access **everything** in the kingdom and **everything** pertaining to your life!

CHAPTER 4

GETTING THE APPROVAL OF THE COURT

After reading this chapter, I am convinced you'll realize the tremendous importance and weight of your faith. We can't get approval for expungement or for any other request which goes forth in the kingdom until we are clear on what pleases the court. You can't go into a natural court any kind of way. There's a way to present things in a court case which will gain the acceptance and approval of the judge. There are proper protocols and procedures which are required when a case is being presented. The natural order we see in our everyday lives is a glimpse of what already exists in heaven. Surely, God does not hold a lower standard of pleasing and gaining the approval of the court than what is present here on the earth.

I don't know anyone in the body of Christ who intentionally sets out to displease God. We all want

the approval of our Father, as it concerns how we live our lives. With this in mind, let's look at a Scripture which shook me to the core many years ago. As a result of the verse of Scripture below, and faith lessons on our podcast, "***The Voice of Reason***," several of our listeners said they literally felt like someone had pulled the rug from under their feet; And that much of what they had been taught about faith was undone in a moment. The consensus across the board was the apparent need to strengthen or re-lay the foundation of faith

Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back (shrinks back cowers down or withdraws), My soul has no pleasure in him (Hebrews 10:38).

I added the emphasis in parenthesis next to draws back, for you to see God's view of a person who does not live by faith. He says very clearly: **My soul has no pleasure in him.** Wow! According to the Word of God, His soul has no pleasure in a person who does not live a life of faith! We do not have His approval in any area where faith is not present and in operation. This doesn't mean God doesn't love the person. Being displeased with how a person lives their life

does not mean love is not present. A great example of this is how we can be displeased with the decisions our children make or how they live their lives, but our displeasure is in no way an indication of our love for them. It simply means, we are displeased because they are not living up to their highest potential. We don't give our children approval when we realize they can have and do better. Therefore, this causes a certain degree of displeasure as a parent. Likewise, when the Lord says He will have no pleasure in the one who draws or shrinks back, it means He does not approve of or think well of areas of our lives which are not faith driven. The picture we get of a person who shrinks back is one who cowers down or whose circumstances place them in withdrawal mode. God takes no pleasure in faithless acts because we are made in the image and likeness of God.

Let me give you a personal example to add a little more emphasis on the last statement I made. I have a twenty-three-year-old son who has been told many times he looks like me and has certain mannerisms which characterize him as my son. He doesn't like to hear that though, but it's true. I also can look at some of my spiritual sons and daughters and I can often see a thread of myself in some of their actions and conversations. It should not be any different for those who are the children of God. Children of faith ought

to look like, act like, and sound just like the Father of faith!

Once we come into the kingdom of God, we must be ready and willing to relinquish our will to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to teach us on this subject of faith. If our ability to please God is tied up in this topic, then it's in our best interest to seek the author and finisher of the book of faith and allow Him to explain it to us, from cover to cover! When we're in agreement with Jesus' perception of faith then we will be able to walk with Him; our ways will be like His and we will manifest the Word as a kingdom culture should! If we want to see the approval of the court in any area of our lives, then we must follow the preset laws and protocols of the court of heaven. The next chapter will aid us in understanding truths which we must apprehend if we intend to please Jesus.

CHAPTER 5

ABSOLUTE TRUTHS ABOUT FAITH

Though I have not defined and will not define the force of faith in this volume, I am going to take a moment to highlight some valuable truths concerning it. Once you grasp its value as it applies to your very existence, I believe it will create a hunger and desire in you to pursue revelation and application in this area.

In Hebrews eleven, which we generally refer to as the faith hall of fame, we are going to look at several witnesses which testify of how important faith is as it relates to our relationship with God.

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
(Hebrews 11:6).

Did you notice a shocking word in the text above? Yes! It's the word **IMPOSSIBLE**. I have heard this Scripture read at least a few hundred times throughout the course of my twenty-eight years as a believer, but I have not heard one sermon on faith when it comes to the impossibility of pleasing God without it! I live in Florida. I'm not sure where you're located, but where I come from, impossible means it's not going to happen, can't be done, no way and no how! We can jump through every hoop, push every bell, and blow every whistle, but unless we are living a life of faith it's **impossible** to please Him! That's a riveting statement. This is an absolute truth of the impossibility of pleasing God, outside of the confines of faith! There's a whole lot of stuff you can do when it comes to serving God, but the one thing He's looking for and attracted to is this wonderful substance called faith.

The Greek definition of the word impossible is the word, *adynatos*, (pronounced a- du- na- tos). This

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word means: ***Impotent, weak, or passive***. If I could restate the Scripture with emphasis on the word impossible, it would read as follows: Without faith, the force to live or complete the work of the kingdom is impotent, weak, and passive; all of which can never please God!

Though I have not defined faith yet, we can at least conclude the antonym of impossible, is potent, powerful, strong and assertive. So, faith must be the opposite of impossible. Now you can see why a life characterized by this type of behavior can't please God! It's the antithesis of everything we know about our amazing God and Lord, Jesus Christ!

OH YES, IT'S A SIN!

The next absolute truth about faith is: ***anything*** not done from faith is sin.

for whatever is not from faith is sin
(Romans 14:23b).

That's another eye-opening absolute truth! We've already established the great importance of faith, so how is it this aspect of sin has been so overlooked in

the body of Christ? It's very apparent from the text above, that **ANYTHING** not performed in faith is sin. It's interesting that we are aware of the sins of gossip, gluttony, homosexuality, fornication and so forth, but this very important gem has been glanced over. If whatever you're doing is not performed in faith, it's sin! It's the sin of missing the mark of God. Our quality of life and relationship with the Lord is absolutely connected to fully functional faith. For this reason, we **MUST** be taught how to intentionally have God's outcome every single time to avoid missing the mark.

We get the terminology of missing the mark from one of the Greek definitions of sin. It points to the sport of archery. In archery, when the target is missed they call out the word, "**sin.**" It literally means, you have just missed the mark — the bullseye. Every archer wants to hit the bullseye; The participants in this sport don't get excited when they miss the mark, and neither should we. I know there are times when sin is not intentional; It can result from our ignorance of the laws found in the Word. But there are times when believers intentionally ignore the target found in the Word and they sin. So, whether intentional or not, sin is sin. There's always a penalty for it.

Here's a great example of this: if I proceed through a stop sign, whether I saw it or not, the officer who

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pulled me over will likely ticket me for a moving violation and issue a verbal warning for future consideration. It's nice when we can just get a warning, but usually a citation is the outcome. It works the same way with spiritual laws, a violation will generally yield a citation and a warning for future consideration. You may not be guilty of a sin that leads to death, but it's still displeasing to God. Up until now, you may have been missing the mark in your everyday living and not even realize it, because you had not received revelation of this sin. Your finances, marriage, or health may have or may be suffering because faith is not at work in that area. You have likely been feeling the effects of the citation, but now it's time to move forward in fully functional faith.

FULLY FUNCTIONAL FAITH IS RARE!

In the parable of the persistent widow, we uncover yet another absolute truth where faith is concerned. Let's look at a few verses from this text.

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8).

The lessons I've heard taught from this parable generally focus on the persistency of prayer. Persistence is extremely important and *appears* to be the only lesson to be learned. Incredibly enough, the last line, which is usually overlooked, gives us the key to

her success. Yes, it's that word again called FAITH. She persisted because she had faith for a favorable outcome. Can you believe Jesus had the nerve to say, ***"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"***

The absolute truth here about faith which we must become keenly aware of is: Faith is not as vast and abundant as we think it is! It is evident, faith is a valuable yet limited commodity to Jesus. My friend, nobody spends time looking for or searching for something which is readily seen or available. Jesus makes it very clear that He is presently, and in the future, looking for this kind of faith on the earth. He's looking for a people who persist in faith until the desired outcome has been manifested. If faith is important to Jesus, it better be important to us. If He's looking for faith, we better make sure He finds it when He inspects the treasure chest of our heart and manifestations in our lives! The question is, will we look like a people of faith when He "comes?" Knowing these absolute truths about faith pushes us one step closer to fully functional faith.

CHAPTER 6

CLOSING ARGUMENT

If I were to question your salvation, I'm sure you would defend it in a most aggressive manner! Well over four years ago I was teaching a lesson on faith and I walked up to a young lady, who is now one of my spiritual daughters, and asked her what she would do if I told her I didn't believe she was saved? Oh my, she took that question very seriously! She said, "I would tell you, you are lying, because I know that I am saved!" Like her, I am sure I can't talk you out of your salvation, that is if you are really born again.

In *Psalm 49:8* it says: ***For the redemption of their souls is costly, And it shall cease forever.*** Every believer embraces the truth of a salvation we could not earn; but has been paid for by the blood of Jesus. We have enough faith in us to believe we are born again through the blood of Jesus — a person whom

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we can't see with our eyes. We believe He lives in us through His Spirit and we'll see Him face to face one day. Do you realize how much faith it takes to be born again? This same faith for salvation must work just as effectively and powerfully in every area of our lives! We must know how to appropriate this same thread through everything.

I believe the Lord would love for us to put a very brief hold or pause on the deeper revelation for just a moment, so we can teach His people how to function properly in faith! Once that is being done, we can pick up where we left off. You may be reading this book and totally disagree with this statement, but that's okay. It takes only a short inspection of the body of Christ to realize, somewhere along the line, the ball has been dropped pertaining to this subject! We will never be able to demonstrate the meatiness of the greater revelation the Lord has for us if we can't weave it through the substance of faith and demonstrate it in everyday living! As we shore up this foundation, we will prepare ourselves for the things of God which will require a far greater degree of faith than what we are currently prepared for.

A case for faith has been presented. I pray this first volume of ***Fully Functional Faith*** is enough to cause you to begin digging violently into the Word of

God concerning this subject.

We can sum up the fact, that our relationship with and communication with God, through His Spirit hinges on our ability to function in, now I'm throwing another phrase out, "the God-kind" of faith. Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship with Jesus. It's a necessary element for us to have a Zoe, or God kind of life, to the full and overflowing. There's a faith we've been taught that has bits and pieces of the God kind of faith; but I know you don't want bits and pieces. Bits and pieces will not give you the expected outcome of the Word of God every single time. Bits and pieces will not clear our guilty verdict, but fully functional faith will!

I hope you'll stay with me through these series on faith. I assure you your life will be dramatically changed! Be sure to look for the release of our next volume of ***Fully Functional Faith*** entitled: ***The Currency of Heaven – the Standard.***

PRAYER OF SALVATION

If you've never received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you can receive Him today! All God asks you to do is believe and receive the gift of salvation through His Son Jesus. Pray it now from your heart and your life will be forever changed, now, and for eternity:

“Father God, I come before You and I admit that I’m a sinner, and I ask you to forgive me. I thank You for sending Jesus to the cross to pay the penalty for my sin. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord. I believe that He died on the cross, rose again, and now sits at Your right hand in heaven. I receive Jesus now as my Lord and Savior. Heavenly Father, please come into my heart and change me. I will serve You for the rest of my life. I pray this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.”

If you prayed this prayer with sincerity, then you are saved! All of heaven is rejoicing right now!

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Get yourself connected to a good Bible believing church to begin growing and learning.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Apostle Sonya L. Thompson is called as a teacher to the body of Christ to; **“Train, Educate and Advise through the Gospel with Simplicity and Purity.”** She holds a Bachelor of Science in the field of Business Administration, a Master of Arts in Biblical Leadership and a Doctorate in Biblical Finances. She is an entrepreneur, business owner, mentor and spiritual mother. Apostle Thompson was ordained as a Pastor by world renowned minister of the gospel, Dr. Nasir Siddiki and affirmed as an Apostle by Apostle Jerry D. Owens of Joshua Generation Outreach Church; He is her Pastor & covering of the **ARISE Apostolic Network & Arise Ministries International.**

She is driven to introduce people to the Living God; To teach the Living word; To equip & edify the body of Christ for the work of ministry; To lead others to encounter the abiding presence of God, in a way which will forever change their lives; To see an awakening that leads to Revival!