



Unity Church of Christianity
Faith It Till You Make It
August 24, 2011

Howard Caesar

I want to begin by telling you something that you all should know and hopefully can align with: There is a loving power in the universe. A loving power that we call God, Father, Divine Mind, whatever your name for the power we call God is a power for good. It's a power for good in and throughout the universe.

Through our spiritual growth, we are called to access and align with that power and use that power for good as a vessel through which we are living. The statement: "There is a presence and power for good in the universe" is a given, but the statement: "It is there to access and to be used," basically comes down to a choice. The power is always there. Do you have it on or off? Have you made the choice again and again and again to access it, to use it, to channel it for the good that is its nature?

It is said that knowledge is power, right? Knowledge is power and power without knowledge—a person can make some mistakes and error in their ways. There is a story about a steel company who felt it was time for a shake up, and so they hired a new CEO. The CEO was determined to rid the company of all the slackers. Over the first few days on the job, the CEO took a walking tour of the facilities, and he noticed this guy who was leaning up against the wall not doing anything. The room was full of workers, and he wanted them all to know that he meant business.

He went up and asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" This young man was a little surprised and said, "Well, I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Just wait right here. I'll be right back." He went back to his office and was gone a couple minutes. He came back, went up to the young man and handed him \$1600. He said, "Here is \$1600 in cash. It is four weeks' pay. Now get out and don't come back." He felt pretty good about himself. He looked around the room and thought he had really asserted himself. Then, he said, "Does anyone want to tell me what this goofball did here?" Somebody from across the room said, "Pete's a delivery guy." That was the biggest tip he ever got in his life just by leaning against the wall. Knowledge is important in the use of power. In making decisions, it helps for us to know all the facts, not be too hasty, and check out what's going on.

In the domain of spirituality, Divine Law operates solely on what we know and what we apply from what we know. In the realm of spiritual growth and spiritual awakening, it is one thing to have knowledge of spiritual principles and it's another thing to apply them. That's the big difference between every individual is to what extent we apply them, and that's why we say, "To know there is a power for good in the universe is a given, but to use it is always an ongoing choice."

How do we use this power for good that is in the universe? There is a word we've heard so many times that sometimes we overlook it, and it shouldn't be overlooked. It is simply the word "faith." There is something about being a power in faith and a power in the dynamic called faith. All the masters and teachers and mystics through time have referred to this faith. Jesus was very clear and shared in simple terms, "According to your faith so be it done onto you." According to your application of this power called faith so your life will go. Don't overlook it. There are many instances where He said, "Your faith has made you whole." Your faith has made the difference. There is something that was happening in you that engaged a power and accessed it for good because that is the nature of God and the universe if you're applying this properly and understanding it.

Faith is not just believing in God; it is believing in good and in the goodness of God, and the benevolence of a universe that is always there as your friend wanting to help you. You have to be in position to be an opening through which it can pour itself. It is believing there are solutions that have not been realized and knowing the good you are seeking is there even if you cannot see it. It is there finding its way in this moment. Often times it has to do with visualizing the goodness that is in the universe and visualizing its way to you.

Faith is a spiritually mature perception that doesn't necessarily get stuck in what is, doesn't get stuck in the way things are. It always knows there is something more there, another reality beyond what the eyes may see. There is another possibility, a field of possibilities that you can step into.

Charles Fillmore, a cofounder in Unity, defined faith as the perceiving power of the mind. It has to do with a way of looking beyond what is. He said, “The perceiving power of the mind linked with the power to shape substance.” Essentially, faith is always molding and shaping this thought stuff that is referred to as substance if you will. Through the power of faith you’re actually bringing things together. There is an orchestration on an invisible level, beyond the veil of what you can see that faith molds and shapes. This is what Charles was talking about.

When the conditions or circumstances of your life are limiting or unsatisfactory, faith is the ability to see those conditions changed. It is a perception of seeing past what is, transformed in the light of a presence and power for good that wants to lift your vision past what is. You are actually a part of the creative process by which good is being brought into this world if you’re willing to know that there’s a truth lying behind what is. Jesus said, “Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall say unto this mountain be thou taken up and cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe that what he says shall come to pass, he shall have it.” If a person really works this principle of faith properly, there is nothing that can keep your good from you. The field of possibilities just opens up.

We have heard the saying “fake it till you make it,” have we not? I want to give you a new one today. It’s about “faith it till you make it,” and that’s basically a mind and heart cultivating the energies of belief toward a power for good. It’s to look to God as this great infinite resource who is present and giving you the opportunity to perceive new levels of being and expressing.

Our five senses are really there to help see the world, engage what is out there and maneuver our way through it. Faith is actually about developing a perception that is born from the world within with God. There is another perception when you connect to the Divine within. It’s seeing with the eyes of God. It sees with the eyes of truth a whole other level of reality.

Paul the apostle said, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” In other words, there are things not yet seen, but you have a conviction that they exist. Knowing and feeling helps bring that into experience for those who are able to emotionally embrace a perception that goes beyond what is. All of us have to rise up and look beyond our difficulties and challenges to find our way out of them, to learn from them. We’ve all risen from the ashes of our challenges, our defeats, our pain, our limitations, our sufferings. We’ve all had them and had to rise up and go on with our life.

Susy Orman who is well known for her insights into investments and success and prosperity, I’ve read that she had to learn to rise from the ashes in her life too. It wasn’t that she had it all right to begin with. She was learning and growing. She tells about a time when she borrowed \$50,000 from her friends in order to purchase her own restaurant. Within four months, the broker she invested with came to inform her that due to mismanagement all the money she had borrowed from her friends was gone. She was devastated, but she said, “I had to rise beyond that

occasion.” She said, “I learned all about finances and investing.” She went to Merrill Lynch’s training program and became an executive there. She said, “Every loss leads you to a gain and every no takes you closer to a yes.” I love that. She describes this happening in her life as the biggest break because it built in her an undeniable faith in herself and in her abilities to go on.

Many of you are familiar with the writings of Ernest Holmes a metaphysician and great teacher. He states this very similar idea as well from a spiritual perspective. He says, “Just keep right on knocking on the doorway of your consciousness until every “no” becomes a “yes.” Every negation and affirmation, every fear of faith, you cannot fail if you remain steadfast.” That’s powerful. What he is saying is knock on the door of your consciousness until every “no” becomes a “yes.”

We all have things that are happening in our lives and some good wants to break through but we say “no.” This is the way it is; I have to suffer in this. I have to hang here. I’m trapped in this. This is the way it is. We emphasize all the conditions. We can describe it to our friends as opposed to describing a perception of where you’re headed, where you’re going, moving from the “no” into a “yes;” the universe saying yes to you in some way.

What we’re really talking about is persistence and being steadfast to keep knocking on that door of your own consciousness. That is what Jesus meant when he said you could move mountains if you do not doubt. The doubt is the saying “no.” You have a “no” going on when you want a “yes.” It’s a process going on inside ourselves to get beyond that. You have to faith it till you make it. To “faith it” is to keep hitting that door and moving toward a “yes.”

There is a story about Joe Sweeney, author of the book *Networking is a Contact Sport*. In 1995, Sweeney was President of the Wisconsin Sports Authority. I wanted to tell this story because he’s a fellow Wisconsinite. I was born and raised there. He needed a big name to MC the Wisconsin Sports Hall of Fame dinner that was coming up. He and his group got together and decided they wanted Bob Costas, a famous sports commentator. They thought he would be perfect because he had said complimentary things about the Milwaukee Brewers and living in Wisconsin and the fans. He would refer to fans enjoying bratwurst and the secret stadium sauce at Milwaukee County Stadium.

Sweeney found this was not going to be easy. It was going to require faith and persistence and being steadfast. The first challenge was to find his contact information, and when he did, Sweeney contacted Costas office. He got a hold of his assistant Pam who said, “Sorry. He’s very busy. He won’t be able to do it.”

Sweeney was not going to take “no.” He was going to faith it. He sent Costas a box of bratwurst direct from the Stadium. You would think that would do it, wouldn’t you? He sent with it a cover letter asking him to be MC at the event. No response. They didn’t hear anything from Bob

Costas. The following week, Sweeney set a case of secret stadium sauce, again with a cover letter inviting him to MC the event and, again, no response. Now most people would've given up and go on back to something else. It's a "no," right? Well, not Joe Sweeney. He called the Governor of Wisconsin who was Tommy Thompson at the time and asked him to write Costas a letter personally inviting him on behalf of the State of Wisconsin to MC this event. The governor agreed and wrote this letter to Bob Costas with no response.

Over the next few months, Joe Sweeney kept regularly calling Pam who is now a friend because he's talking to her so often. He would space his calls so he wasn't a pest, but at the same time he was continuing toward a "yes." Knocking at the door continually, he just "faithed" it. Every "no" required another creative solution to somehow come into being with him, to go toward a "yes" in some way. In being persistent with "faith till you make it," he eventually made it. After about 6 months of this process, Pam finally called him and said, "Bob is going to do it."

Joe Sweeney was the guy who picked Bob Costas up at the airport. When they met they shook hands and Bob Costas said, "I have to tell you Joe that you are one of the most persistent characters I have ever met."

Of course persistence is one of the ingredients of faith. It's being steadfast and holding to it. Sometimes I think we turn away too quick before we should. If we stay true and fast in the direction toward a greater good—this or something better dear God.

There are teachers everywhere that we learn from. Jesus Christ is my teacher, my way shower, my elder brother who leads the way for me. I have a relationship with Jesus, but I also have other teachers in the world as well. When you go to a seminar or workshop that person is a teacher. Your spouse is a teacher. Your children are teachers.

Some of you know that I've gone to India several times to a place called *The Oneness University*. I've learned wonderful things in sessions and classes from Amma Bhagavan who teaches. One of the things that has stood out, and I would like to share with you, is when Bhagavan said, "Not all problems can be solved, some have to be dissolved." Do you understand the difference in that? We may think that every problem requires an attack. "We're going to solve this. We're going to figure this out. We're going to roll our sleeves up and handle this." Kind of like the CEO, we charge in and think it's all us.

What this is saying is some problems are not to be solved. They are to be dissolved meaning there is some dynamic of your consciousness that needs to be dealt with and dissolved in you. When you dissolve whatever is in you that may not be for your highest good, the problem goes away outside of you because you've dissolved it inside of you. It can be our doubts. It can be our fears. It can be our limiting beliefs. Whatever is at work in us that we need to dissolve and things

will open up. That's why forgiveness is such a prosperity principle. Something has to be dissolved through forgiveness and that opens you up to a flow.

Sometimes we can't move a mountain with a single thrust. We have to do it in bite-size pieces. It's like you give a dog a bone. It can be a big huge bone and a little dog. What that dog does is haul and drag that bone over into a corner and it starts to gnaw. It starts to chew and soften that bone until eventually it is broken down in bite-size pieces. The dog is rewarded through persistence.

Life sometimes hands us challenges that we have to take in bite-size pieces. As we persist in faith, focused on the good and moving toward a "yes," eventually every challenge becomes dissolved.

Back to this idea that there is a power for good in the universe and you have to use it. It's the idea that faith is a muscle and you have to work your muscles. Everyday of your life you have the opportunity to demonstrate and live the idea of faith. We have the power to choose our beliefs, and that power cannot be stopped unless we decide to stop ourselves from connecting with that power.

Some of you are familiar with the fact that I live on a nature preserve. There are woods very close to my house and all kinds of wild life who come in the night usually. They are nocturnal possums and raccoons and armadillos. I try to love the armadillos away but they keep coming. They dig up the landscape and tear up the flower beds, and so I've gotten live traps. They don't see well and so you kind of guide them into these traps at night. There's a lever and the door closes and locks. It's a real strong, powerful wire mesh and you can't hardly bend it all, even with pliers. In the morning, when I find them in a closed trap, they're placid. They're asleep. They're motionless. In the last six to eight months I've caught 12 armadillos, and then I carry them off to other woods and let them go somewhere else, hopefully not too near other developments. I just have to share this. There are at least six during this time that have gotten out. They have pounded the door. I'm amazed at the power and strength in those armadillos if they want to use it. They have bent and mangled two of my traps and the wire that I couldn't bend myself with all my might back to be fixed. The point is that they resisted and refused to be trapped. They pushed and pushed and knocked on that door until they found a way out. Some of them did and some of them didn't. What kind of armadillo are you? Which one describes you?

When we're feeling trapped by a situation or a set of circumstances, do we just settle in and say, "Well, that's it. Take a "no." Take a "no" or do we keep pounding on the door toward a "yes?" Do we faith it till we make it? That's a question we have to ask ourselves where we stand.

Emerson talked about the idea of a perception, now fast becoming a conscious fact, that there is one mind. "One mind," he said, "and that all of the powers and privileges which lie in any person

lie in all persons.” Realize that all of the armadillos could’ve gotten out. All of us can knock and pound on the door and get to a “yes” from the universe. Faith is a substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It requires conviction, being steadfast, knowing.

On a sea cruise when you look in every direction you can’t see land anywhere, but you trust and have faith that you’re heading toward land somewhere. You can’t see it, but you trust and have faith that you’ll be in port tomorrow or the next day. There is land. It’s the same idea.

I read a story about a minister who was born in Cuba. His parents told him this powerful story. Back in Cuba in 1960, one year after Castro’s revolution, his mother decided they would immigrate to the United States. She was able to smuggle all four children to the United States, but she had to stay back because her husband was not well and was convalescing. Soon after the children were in the US and set up, she wanted to find a way there and gather all the family together. It wasn’t easy because there were thousands of people leaving Cuba at that time. There were long lines to stand in, and you had to get the permission of the government. You had to get a visa and a mode of transportation.

She got rid of her house and lived in a hotel anticipating that they would be able to go. She stood in lines all night to get the paperwork. The big problem was a mode of transportation. She didn’t have a mode of transportation. You couldn’t get an air flight. It took so many months to get a ticket that the visa would’ve run out. She knew a priest who she went to see, and he introduced her to a guy who owned a boat that ferried people to Florida and back. She asked and the guy said, “It’s impossible. It’s filled up. We can’t do it.” She begged. He said, “No.” She went back again after she got her visa to see if there was any possibility. He said, “Look, my last trip to Florida is Monday.” That day was Friday, and he said, “Then I’m done. It’s full up. I’m sorry. You can’t go.”

She returned back to her husband at the hotel. She was still very optimistic and told him, “We’re going to find a way.” She prayed all night. In the morning, on Sunday, she was insistent to her husband that they go to church. They went to a church and when they got there, they saw the guy that was the ferry boat owner. After the service was over, she was going to seek him out, and her husband said, “Don’t do that. Don’t embarrass yourself.” She said, “No, I’m not going to express anger or anything. I’m just going to thank him for trying to help us.” She went over to him and began to thank him in gratitude. His eyes got real big when he saw her, and he stopped her in the middle of her expression of gratitude to him and said, “I’ve been looking for you all week, and I didn’t know where to find you. We’ve had two cancellations. We leave Monday morning.” She turned in a daze heading away, and he followed, tapping her on the shoulder and said, “I just wondered if you have ever been to this church before?” She said, “No, never.” He said, “Never have I.” The universe pulled them together. This lady “faithed” it till she made it.

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It's a lesson to us all really. Remember that some problems aren't to be solved; they're to be dissolved from within. You can't always move the furniture around externally, you have to do some inner work. That's what faith is.

All the powers that lie in any person lie in every person. God has placed within you the same capacity to utilize this incredible power of faith if you make the choice to apply it and to use it. Faith places us all in relationship with the most powerful giver in all the universe, our God who loves us and wants to love us forward.

Wherever you may be, whatever your problems may be, if they're economic, relationship, health, whatever they are, faith it till you make it. Keep knocking on the door of whatever seems to be the "no" out there or in here until you get to the "yes." Faith it till you make it. God bless you all.