THE FOUR ESSENTIALS
ESSENTIAL #1: FAITH
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2014

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. - 1 Timothy 6:12

OBSERVATIONS

1. Faith is GOD-FOCUSED.

2. Faith is FORWARD-LOOKING.

3. Faith is SCRIPTURE-DRIVEN.

4. Where you find faith, you will find:
   A. A POSITIVE OUTLOOK.
   B. A POSITIVE PROFESSION.
   C. POSITIVE ACTION and PREPARATION.

5. Faith is the means by which GOD’S PURPOSES are CARRIED OUT on earth.

6. Biblical faith is the only APPROACH to LIFE that pleases God.

7. UNWAVERING, GOD-HONORING faith is always REWARDED.

8. When we fail to exercise faith:
   A. We DISHONOR GOD.
   B. We lose our FOCUS.
   C. We abandon the FIGHT.
   D. We become EASY TARGETS.
   E. We LOSE GROUND spiritually.
   F. We lose BLESSINGS.
   G. We become a POOR example.

THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH!
1 John 5:4b
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He Who promised is faithful.

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.

You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.