"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, as it was the substance of things which have come to pass; and it is the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

"Without faith man cannot please God...." Hebrews 11:6

"Let us therefore fear, while the promise of entering into his rest remains, lest some amongst you find they are prevented from entering. For the gospel was preached to us as it was to them also but the word they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith in those who heard it." Hebrews 4:1,2

Faith is an extremely important part of the Christian life. It is not only an endowment of the Holy Spirit, but it is also a product or a fruit of the Holy Spirit operative within the Christian life. Faith is something which God gives to the Christian in his heart. In the equation of the miraculous aspect of life and healing, man must have faith "of a grain of mustard seed" (Matthew 17:20). In the latter Scripture, the disciples had asked Jesus why they could not effect healing for a man's son who had epilepsy. Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for truly I say to you if there is faith in you even as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain (the disease in this instance) move away from here and it will move away and nothing would prevail over you." Man is required to have a small amount of faith and God will produce in him the required amount of faith to remove any kind of a mountain, illness, impossibility, financial distress, negative prognosis, diagnosis of incurability, despair etc. St. Paul said, "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." When people come to the Christian Medical Foundation for healing and they state that they are afraid that they don't have sufficient faith in order to be healed, I tell them that they need only a wee bit of faith and the rest of it will be supplied by the Holy Spirit. They should trust in and rely upon "the faith of the Son of God." It has occurred to me that faith is truly something which is supernatural. It is not the same as belief which would appear to be a cerebral function. Faith is a spiritual function, a product of the life of the Holy Spirit within the spirit of the believer. There are times when we are praying for those who are ill, that supernaturally the spark of the life of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit ignites the petitioner and despair and hopelessness leave, and the power of God's Spirit and consequently His faith courses throughout the being of the petitioner. This is not anything which the minister or the person who is praying for the sick person has in himself, but it is God's power coursing through the intercessor that touches the cellular structure, the DNA of the petitioner, and virtually ignites the spiritual life within that person.

Often when people come for prayer or are simply walking through the doors of the Church searching for something, the diagnosis of those people could be that they have in general a paralysis of faith. The carnal mind, the philosophies of men, the hyper-cerebral knowledge of good and evil, and the intellectual teachings of the school system in the universities as well as the Church, have so magnified the cerebrum and atrophied the heart that faith, which is a product of the heart and the spirit has virtually become paralyzed. The foolishness of preaching which St. Paul talks about in I Corinthians 1:21 is contrasted to the "wisdom of the world" through which people "knew not God." St. Paul goes on to say "The Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom but we preach Christ crucified." In a similar vein we are told by St. Paul, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophie and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

What Jesus and the Apostle Paul both are telling us is that healing and the gifts of the Holy Spirit come about through faith in Christ and now through philosophical or intellectual systems. If one wants to see what the world and the philosophical system offer to human beings, read "Healing Words" by Dr. Larry Dossey. The majority of his book has to do with philosophical, intellectual, and psychic methodologies which have nothing to do with spirituality. His writings, and the writings of all of the New Agers, tend to create, just as the hyper-intellectualism of our university system has created, paralysis of faith and true belief in man and the ideas promulgated by man in contrast to the vital and life producing Word of God. Note that Dr. Dossey's book is called, "Healing Words." This is in contrast to the Holy Bible which is "The Healing Word." The sad thing is that many Christians are accepting the philosophical and the cerebral ideas of Far Eastern and Shaman cerebral belief systems in contrast to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His healing Word.

Paralysis when it occurs in the human body as a result of some form of neurological injury, creates in the patient an inability to move or to have function in a major portion of the body. Hemiplegia is a paralysis of one half of the body and a consequent inability for there to be muscular activity in that portion of the person. With the use of physiotherapy and healing which occurs following neurological injury such as a stroke, eventually the powers in that portion of the patient can be restored all or in part. In the same way, hyper-intellectualism or hyper-cerebral emphasis in the Christian or in the non-Christian creates a paralysis or an inability of function to occur in the spiritual aspect of that individual's life. This form of paralysis and consequent inactivity is also correctable and in truth totally correctable if the person will pray with faith believing and take himself out of his own keeping and entrust himself into God's keeping. He will be saved, that is from every adverse affect upon him, every attack of Satan or of the world system (Acts 16:31).

It is of interest that in the western world, our fascination with cerebral function has eventuated in a diminution of faith, in a destructiveness of man's belief in God and in His Church, and consequently there has been a great lack of power in Christianity which in many
instances, has created intellectual abdication on the part of Church leaders. Recently, it has been reported that the Episcopal Bishop of Edinburgh in Scotland has stated that adultery is permissible because it is part of man's genetic pattern. The Archbishop of York stated that he did not believe in the resurrection or in the virgin birth. Some Episcopal Bishops obviously do not believe in the Biblical prohibition against sodomy and indeed, even witchcraft. I'm reminded of a statement by Martin Luther who said, "I'm much afraid that universities will prove to be the great gates of Hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of the youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God, must become corrupt." Certainly this prophetic word of Martin Luther is being seen in our society today.

All is not lost. A great awakening of faith is occurring in the Church, in the universities, and in medicine. However, there is a great attack upon the Christian belief system being waged by those who have accepted non-Christian points of view. The great battle in the days to come will be the battle between the psychic and the spiritual. The psychic will masquerade as the spiritual as it is doing now, but this will occur more and more. The Christian, during this time, must stand in faith, stand in the Word, stand in Christ, and stand protected by the Blood of the Lamb. The healings claimed by the gray matter people are nothing to be compared with the marvelous, miraculous healings which occur through belief in Christ, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. They speak of the bringing down of fevers, the relief of anxiety, and such things, whereas we speak of the healing of cancer, and the deliverance from hopelessness and despair to hope and life. Let us not be subject any further in the Church and out, to the paralysis of faith occasioned by the inroads of the philosophies of men and pseudo-spirituality. Christian Medical Foundation continues to stand four square upon the truth of God's Holy Word. Man must become spiritual and live in the Holy Spirit empowered spirituality.