

Satsang by Swami Amar Jyoti

The Power of Faith

In this modern age we need to take faith more realistically. Have faith that you can cure yourself. Have faith that you can have peace. If you have full, unconditional faith you can be Liberated.

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E HAVE ALL HEARD the saying: *Faith can move mountains*. Faith should not be taken lightly. It is because we have taken it lightly that we think it does not work. Take it unflinchingly and you will see the truth of it. Faith is not only a religious virtue but also scientific. In the Bhagavad Gita, Sri Krishna proclaims: *Shradhavan labhate gyanam*—“Only the faithful attain Enlightenment.” Doubt weakens the drive or focus of our will and produces resistance, so the full power of faith cannot manifest. Faith is not egotistical determination—“I have faith, I can do it!” And then when you are tested you fall flat. It is through circumstances, conditions, crises and challenges to your likes and dislikes that faith is tested.





Faith is not simply a “be good and do good” virtue, which it certainly is. It gives you power and strength. If you want to do something, have faith in that goal, but do not choose a wrong goal. That is a must because faith can work for evil designs also, but that will be a wastage of time and life-energy. It will land you into trouble and lead to your destruction. So choose the right goal for which you have unwavering faith, without any doubt or resistance, even hidden or subconscious.

Faith is not blind. You have faith only when you have an inner conviction that this is your truth. Scientists still wonder how Einstein got his famous equation, $E=MC^2$. In this modern age we need to take faith more realistically. Have faith that you can cure yourself. Have faith that you can have peace. If you have full, unconditional faith you can be Liberated.

To the degree that you have faith, it will work. When our faith falters or we make excuses, then that is our loss. Faith works in whichever area you apply it, as long as you do not have selfish motives. If you are using faith for the good of all, then that power never diminishes; it goes on increasing.

Whatever lofty goal or purpose you take up—Enlightenment, Liberation, doing good to others, bringing peace or happiness or healing to others, loving others—see that your faith is intact, then you will have a solid foundation. After Liberation, faith is not needed, but as a seeker of Enlightenment or whichever highest goal you choose, you should have faith.

Faith gives you concentration, which once employed gives the fruit of your aspiration. Someone might say, “I had faith but I did not achieve my goal.” Who is going to scrutinize that person’s degree of faith? If we had a way to analyze this scientifically we would see that he used faith up to a certain point, but more faith was needed. To attain Liberation, *Moksha*, you have to believe it can be done. All those great souls who made a name in history in any field, without exception, were men and women of faith, otherwise they could not

have accomplished what they did. Celebrated examples are Jesus and Krishna; the very truth they preached was jeered at or opposed by many, and today they are revered by billions.

It is not so much what we plan or wish or project that comes true, and not even always our ability that makes things happen. Able people often fail also. It is the inner belief of the pioneers of any field—men and women of unflinching faith—that changes history. Many great artists were laughed at or opposed by others when they created something new, but the time came when generations of artists copied them, and that art sells today for millions of dollars.

If you want to do something for others, do it with faith, but scrutinize yourself to be sure you have no selfish motive. Those who have selfish motives or expectations cannot carry on for long. Somewhere along the journey they will give up or get distracted and go back. Their karmas, desires and *samskars*—impressions in the mind—come up. They leave the path. Therefore very few reach the highest goal. Jesus said: “Many will come and few will be chosen.” Everyone has choices. Prophets have their own choices; not because

they want to choose only a few, not because they cannot take on a greater burden, but because *we* get distracted with desires, expectations and *samskars*.

Faith will carry you to your goal. Those who reach do so because they have faith. They are not tempted by side issues. They say, “First let us reach there and then we will see what is next.” Many of us first see what is here—“Let me experience and try this and that; then when I am convinced I will focus on the goal.” By that time death comes and the drama is over! Try again next birth. It is better to make your life fruitful while you live. Otherwise you keep trying and experiencing things and putting off your goal, as if that is very logical. “But how am I sure this goal is there?” How are you sure about all the other things you are trying? Have

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fair thinking. Therefore we should try to understand ourselves, to clean up whatever mess we have created.

Our temptations and giving importance to side issues are due to lack of faith, resistance and doubts. We try out various experiences to show that we are practical, that we are being realistic in this world. But when the results come, it does not seem to work. No peace. No health. No love and happiness flowing all the time. Modern man is too skeptical. How long will our skepticism, resistance and doubts remain? How long will questions, excuses and defensiveness remain?

What faith will give you, nothing else will. Whatever you do with faith, whether it is talents, abilities or accomplishments, will come back to you tenfold, and in a divine way. That is why Jesus said: "Seek ye the Divine first, then everything else shall be added unto you." If you go one step forward, God comes ten steps toward you. It could be fivefold or tenfold or a hundredfold, but it will be more than you expected. You will wonder, "God, I didn't know You loved me so much." And He may say: *I told you so many times, directly and through others—Prophets, books, and everyone around you.* "Yeah, but I never heard it. I am hearing it for the first time today." That means you were deaf until now? "Oh, I probably didn't care for it." That is it. You simply didn't care. You were busy with other things. On the top of that, you were proud that you could do without Him. You did not say that—you were afraid He might knock you down—but you meant it.

You are seeking freedom, joy, love, peace, fulfillment, satisfaction and wisdom. If you are not free, you cannot enjoy these things. If you are not free inside, your money, food, clothes, relationships, closets, cosmetics and perfumes cannot make you happy. The human being is a very high creature but at the same time we can reduce ourselves to animal nature or helplessness. That is up to us. You want freedom and you are shaking your wings like a bird wishing to come out of the cage. But how? That part is your responsibility.

Inside the birdcage there are fluffy feathers lying around, a small mirror, a plastic bell, a little bowl of water, some seeds and swings to play on. They talk from outside the cage, "Sweetie, how are you doing?" And Sweetie whistles and responds—"I'm okay!" Sounds funny, but in what way are we better? Our houses are bigger, but proportionally it is the same. Magnify this and apply it to your life. You travel further,

no doubt, but the mentality is the same. We are happy with peanuts. We are all seeking the same joy, wisdom, peace, love, satisfaction and divine treasures; the aspiration for that requires faith.

Freedom is your heritage, your inner true nature. That is what you are seeking whether you know it or not. That cry is inherent and natural, knowingly or unknowingly, with everyone. I am not trying to give this to you but simply reminding you that you already have it. It cannot be given; it has to be realized. Have faith and realize. That will give you joy and perfection. That is what you are seeking through so many other experiences and life's vicissitudes. You have to be humble at the door of the Lord, Who is the King of kings. All other paraphernalia are secondary.

Have pure faith in the Lord and your goal. Have full faith because that is within you. It is beyond loss and gain, beyond virtue and vice, beyond bad and good, beyond right and wrong, beyond your differentiation. That is why it needs faith, because it is unconditional. It is unknown to us, unmanifest, and so great that our individual thinking cannot comprehend it.

If we can just understand ourselves that will be enough: our thoughts, our actions, our speech. We cannot understand the glory of the Divine; we should not even apply intellect there. There we should apply faith. When you have this approach, then it is easy: "Let it be on earth as it is in heaven." If this were too bold a prayer, Jesus would not have offered it. It must be easy, or at least possible.

With faith you can make your spirit shine within you. With faith you can be awakened. With faith you can really break the cage. You may be thinking, "How can I break this steel cage when I'm just a small, delicate bird?" God has many ways. You are not seeing those dimensions. "Show me where it is even possible." Beyond what you are seeing, is there something unknown to you or not? If all ways were known to you, you would be perfect already. Since you are not, naturally there is an end to your knowledge. That unknown requires faith: you do not know but somehow you believe it is true. I do not call it blind faith. Calling faith blind and doubt okay is perversion. Those who are faithless, those who doubt are the blind ones. Do we ever say that doubt is blind? Doubt is well tested on the anvil of your intellect and reason; only faith is blind! Let us try to understand ourselves. Do not try to understand God before you understand yourself.

What faith will give you, nothing else will. Whatever you do with faith, whether it is talents, abilities or accomplishments, will come back to you tenfold, and in a divine way.



The secret is given to the humble and meek. God will say: *Come here and sit down. I'll tell you, dear.* Faith is for the unknown, no doubt about it. That bird in the cage thinks, "This is my cage and my reality. How can I get out? The door is locked from outside. Even if it were not, I would not be able to open it with my beak." Some savior needs to come to open the gate, or some simple-hearted kid who might plead, "Mummy, now let him go." Who knows? By accident someone might leave the door open. Even then they fear. "How can I go out?" They are so weakened inside that prison, feeling, "What if a big bird eats me up?" Remember that so far God has saved you. He will do the rest.

A doll made of salt went to fathom the ocean and never came back. Who knows? You might do the same. I think you are afraid because you might lose yourself. But those who have done so are blessed. They say, "We are blissful, we are consecrated, we are ascended." Whether Christian, Hindu or otherwise, it does not matter. Afterwards they have no regrets—"Thank God I did it." They feel resurrected, Liberated. It is simple. If you want to use your reason, use it in a fair manner, not one-sided to suit your whims.

We have many reasons to do wrongs—why don't we have reasons to do right? We give excuses for having failed—why don't we use excuses for being successful? We take shelter in weakness—why don't we take shelter in strength? If you feel compelled to do wrongs—why don't you feel compelled to do right? Why would you not look up to fly rather than look down and feel your incapacity? Why do you think you cannot do what you feel inside is correct? Why are you not motivated for the right, for the divine, for the auspicious, for the great? You want to see the Lord and love Him. Why would you not do that? "Oh, things keep me down." Why do you not keep those things down and get up? "Oh, I have no courage to do that." Yes, true, but you have courage for other things. Why not employ that courage to rise up? It may be difficult in the beginning but if you believe it is true, that it can be done, and make it your perfect goal with faith, it will work. It may not happen today but some day it will. With faith you can fly.

We use cleverness and tricks of the mind for many things. Why not use it to break this bondage? Which bondage? Your negativities, greed, attachment, selfishness, injustice, demanding, your "me"-ness and wrong thinking. Raja Yoga actually has a term for this: *sucaushalam*, which means "tact." Tact, when it is degraded, becomes diplomacy and cleverness. Why would you not apply this tact for absolute Liberation since that is your inherent nature and true birthright?

Buddha, Jesus and Krishna all said: "The Kingdom of God is within you, God is within you, Spirit is within you, Light is within you and in everyone." Why have you accepted the cage? Let us try to understand ourselves.

That might make us more wise than trying to understand God. You do not have your own body in control. If you knew, you would do what is best for it at all times. You do not know your own mind. You do not have confidence and faith that you can achieve, that you can love unconditionally, that you can have peace and wisdom.

Faith works wonders.

Have you seen people jump from airplanes without a

parachute? They calculate from where the plane is flying to where people are holding a net on a particular spot. They do so many daring things. They drive racecars three hundred miles per hour. Girls in the circus put their whole head into the tiger's mouth. People jump through circles of fire and walk on burning coals. We cannot even reduce ten pounds if we want to. If God is within you, why can you not do it? You are tied up with excuses, weaknesses and helplessness. You have forgotten your treasure, your divine heritage. You have forgotten what you can be.

Faith is what gives you strength. Doubt makes you weak. Please remember this. Any resistance blocks your own progress. You remain where you are; the door is closed. Faith opens it and gives you strength. Somehow magic happens. Whether you do it or God sends some kind of helping hand to do it for you, it happens. Have you not seen in your life how, at times, circumstances arise in such a way that things happen? You never expected it, and then all of a sudden the situation changes in spite of you.

You have to believe in your inherent nature, that which is already within you. You do not have to achieve anything. You have to be what you truly are.



You have to believe in your inherent nature, that which is already within you. Whereas psychology has plans and formulas for how to do it, spirituality says, "You already have it. Simply remind yourself. You have only lost consciousness of it. You are not *aware* of it. You are just sleeping, ignoring it." The whole purpose of boldness, courage and faith is to remind you of this. Realize it. In the ultimate sense, nothing is lost.

You do not have to achieve anything. You have to be what you truly *are*. That is your Being. This is your non-being. Therefore we call it a dream, an illusion. This is not truly you, and you know that. Often I hear, "I don't know what is inside me." Therefore there is misery, because we do not feel that as a tragedy; that spiritual bankruptcy does not touch us. Non-being has assumed reality out of proportion. Non-being has become being, and Being has become unknown.

Just be what you are truly. That is Liberation. From what? From your own illusions, your own fantasies. That is coming back home. That is

Realization, being One. When we begin to have faith in our ultimate Being, our true Being, then the illusion vanishes. It is only in your true Being, your sweet home, that you are truly joyful, wise, conscious and fulfilled. You assumed non-being as reality; that was your mistake. Conscious faith is required to become what you truly *are*. 🌸

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Swami Amar Jyoti has authored several books and over seven hundred recorded wisdom teachings illuminating the classical path for modern times are available. This Satsang is edited from *Faith In Our True Being* (D-15). A catalog of Satsangs and Retreats by Swami Amar Jyoti on CD and audiocassette is available at truthconsciousness.org. Or call 520-743-8821 for a free copy by mail. Please see page 70 of this issue for further information. Photo on Page 3: Swami Amar Jyoti in India, 1961, courtesy of Jyoti Ashram.