

WHAT FAITH IS



INTRODUCTION

Faith is an essential aspect of the Christian life and is often spoken about in the Bible. The Bible tells us that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). This verse suggests that faith is a belief in things that are not yet visible or tangible, but that we hope for and trust in.

God has a lot to say about faith in the Bible. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus says, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." This verse emphasizes the power of faith and how it can move mountains and accomplish impossible tasks.



There are three aspects of faith that are important to understand:

- Faith in God: This is the foundation of faith and involves believing in God and His existence, as well as His love and goodness.
- Faith in His Word: This involves believing in the truth of the Bible and living according to its teachings.
- Faith in His Promises: This involves trusting in God's promises for our lives and believing that He will fulfill them in His timing.



The Purpose of Faith

The purpose of faith is to have a relationship with God and to trust in Him for salvation and for guidance in our daily lives. Faith allows us to rely on God's strength and not our own, and it helps us to have hope and peace in difficult situations.



FAITH

How to live by Faith

There are three ways that we can live our faith on a daily basis. The first is by reading the Bible and learning more about God and his will for our lives. The second is by praying and talking to God on a regular basis. The third is by serving others and using our gifts and talents to glorify God and make a positive impact in the world.

LIVE BY FAITH



Activating Faith through Prayer

Matthew 17:19-21

A poor prayer life is an indication of a lack of faith. Jesus Christ gives us two suggestions for dealing with doubt: fasting and prayer.

How do we develop loyalty, faith, and trust as humans? Can we put our trust in someone we don't know? Are we capable of loyalty to a stranger? Through consistent interaction over time—close and regular communication—we develop confidence in others. We gradually arrive at a point where we can have trust and faith in them and in their behavior as we get to know them better, observe them in action, and learn more about their personalities. Do you think God is any different?

This verse has a condition, which states that only "those who diligently seek Him" will get rewards from God. The gift of a living faith is obtained by seeking God fervently, purposefully, constantly, and fervently (Hebrew 11 vs 6). A key component of seeking God is prayer, which is used in conjunction with study, fasting, and implementing what is learned to submit to His will—practical Christian living and triumph. Those who do these things to demonstrate their diligence are the ones who are rewarded with the confidence to prevail (1 John 5:4).





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY WITH FAITH?

Faith is confident in prayer, and faith is humble in prayer. We are given these two types of prayer for different circumstances. It is crucial that we understand how to use them and develop our ability to tell them apart.



1. WHEN PRAYING FOR WHAT GOD HAS WITH HELD, DO SO WITH HUMILITY.

Develop humility as you pray. As Paul did, you might ask and plead, but always keep in mind that you are pleading, not commanding:

Now pay attention to those of you who claim, "Today or tomorrow, we'll travel to this or that city, stay there for a year, conduct business, and earn money." Why? You have no idea what will occur tomorrow. How do you live? You are a mist that briefly appears before dissipating.

You should say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that," as it appear differently concerning that. (James 4:13-15)

2. WITH CONFIDENCE, PRAY FOR WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED.

Develop confidence in your prayer life. God may reveal his intent through a Scripture promise or a guide from the Holy Spirit.

You do not need to add the phrase "if it be your will" when God has made a clear promise that applies to everyone. You can fervently pray with confidence. These assurances abound in the Bible. The Bible is like a field of undiscovered gold, and prayer unearths God's promises.

You don't have to say, "Father, give me your Holy Spirit, if it be your will," when you come to ask for the Holy Spirit's presence, power, and strength in your life. His wishes have already been communicated to you.

The promises of God open the way for a strong and confident faith that prays, "Let us...come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to aid in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).



THE IMPORTANCE OF GRACE WHEN IT COMES TO FAITH

According to the scripture, that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts or works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God's love, forgiveness, and salvation are all based on His work, not on who or what we are or do. This is what it means to be saved by grace alone. Even with our greatest efforts, we will never be able to earn salvation, but God still counts us as righteous because of Christ.

That grace comes to us only via trust. Even the faith to trust in God is given to us by God. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by following a list of dos and don'ts. God alone is capable of saving us. The Gospel is the good news.

A fundamental aspect of our existence as a Christian academic community is how we respond to God's grace. Free from sin (but not free to sin!), we are urged to live out our faith with grateful hearts and a desire to spread the Gospel to others.



FAITH IN TIMES OF TRIALS AND TEMPTATION

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:2-12, NIV).

According to James, we will experience hardships from time to time, and we should view each one as a source of unadulterated delight. When James instructs us to view facing difficulties of all types as pure joy, we may initially think he is crazy. He's not crazy, though. James here alludes to a condition of welfare rather than happiness when he uses the word "joy." Everything will be well if there is an understanding. Everything is fine, and it will all work out because the Lord is in control. When things are going well, a person may feel glad and even happy.



WHY TRIALS AND TEMPTATION WILL COME?

James is aware that the struggles we experience as followers of Christ have a much bigger meaning. The trials James is referring to are not punishment trials. The exact opposite Your stand on God's things and your carrying out of what is proper in his eyes will lead to trials and testing for the believer. You will be put to the test, as well as your confidence in Christ.

How you will react is already known to God. God is not testing you to see how you will respond. For you, that is, to uplift you, to bolster your spirituality, and to foster spiritual development in you. Trials lead to spiritual development and maturity. Since Christ suffered for us and served as an example for us, we are called to follow in his footsteps. If we endure suffering as a result of acting morally, God will view it favorably (1 Peter 2:20–21).

EXERCISING FAITH IN DIFFERENT TRIALS

Of course time of trials and temptations will surely come for you as a believer, But the scripture make us understand that when you are it he is with you according to Isaiah 43 vs 1 – 4, Perhaps what should I do when I am faced with trials and temptation will be the question that you will want to ask. Before then you have to know the eight trials that you are likely to face.



- ✝ Fiery trials include difficult confrontations or battles as well as fits of rage, grief, or passion.
- ✝ Diseases and physical limits constitute infirmities.
- ✝ Reproaches: jeers and rejection due to one's religion or holiness
- ✝ Harassment and discrimination based on one's religious beliefs
- ✝ Wearing and caring for daily obligations are necessities.
- ✝ Distresses: heartbreaking disappointments
- ✝ Tribulations: extraordinary demands and difficulties
- ✝ Temptations are chances for us to give in to our wicked nature.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY WITH FAITH?

1. EXPRESS GRATITUDE

Sometimes the hardest thing you can do in a challenging situation is to be grateful. However, the Bible is very explicit about this reaction: "In everything give thanks: because this is God's wish for you in Christ Jesus," it says (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It requires a conscious act of the will and the renunciation of natural wants to be grateful rather than to complain.

2. REJOICE!

We are also told to rejoice in everything, in addition to expressing thanks: "Rejoice in the Lord constantly, and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Rejoicing is a spiritual reaction, whereas giving thanks is a willful effort. As a result, it is conceivable to experience both sadness and joy simultaneously. We cannot escape the agony of a trying circumstance, but we may learn to celebrate God and the good things He will accomplish through our suffering.



3. LISTEN TO AND PUT GOD'S WORD INTO PRACTICE.

Each time Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He responded by quoting from the Bible. For instance, Jesus cited Deuteronomy 8:3 in response to Satan's suggestion that He convert stones into bread: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). By speaking the truth in the face of trials and temptations, we can emulate Jesus and successfully participate in spiritual warfare.

4. CRY OUT TO GOD

The purpose of God putting us through challenges in life may be to convince us of our absolute dependence on Him. Why does God give us instructions that appear impossible to follow? We must learn to rely on Him because He wants to dramatically work through our lives. He must take on the role of being our lone source of power, sustenance, safety, and guidance

5. USE GOODNESS TO DEFEAT EVIL.

Jesus offered His followers a clear set of guidelines on how to handle people who are trying to ruin their lives. Referring to Matthew 5:44 The following instructions are entirely the reverse of what we would normally do:



- ✝ Love your enemies.
- ✝ Whoever curses you, bless them.
- ✝ Give to those who dislike you.
- ✝ Offer up prayers for those who mistreat and persecute you.
- ✝ Although such responses would never be someone's default mode, they do reveal God's character: "Be not overpowered by evil, but conquer evil with good" (Romans 12:21).



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, faith is an essential aspect of the Christian life and involves believing in God, His Word, and His promises. It allows us to have a relationship with God and to trust in Him for guidance and strength. Through faith, we can have hope and peace in difficult situations and know that God is always with us.

Faith is a powerful force that can transform our lives and guide us towards a deeper relationship with God. It is a belief in something that we cannot see or touch, but that we hold onto with confidence and trust. There are four types of faith, five stages of faith, and five steps of faith that we can go through as we grow in our relationship with God. There are also three ways that we can live our faith on a daily basis by reading the Bible, praying, and serving others. May we all seek to deepen our faith and live it out in a way that brings honor and glory to God