

#105 HOW DO I HAVE MORE FAITH?

Q: I don't have the kind of faith I see other people have. They talk about what God has done for them, but it doesn't seem to make any difference whether I pray or not - sometimes things get better and sometimes they don't.

Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

Faith is not claiming what you want in prayer and presumptuously believing God has to do it, and then if it doesn't work, supposing it must be because you don't have faith. Jesus said that your faith must simply be in God, who has power to calm the storms and move the mountains in your life; a faith that believes He loves you and trusts Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

The reason those with deep abiding faith praise God, is not because they have the power in their prayer to claim whatever they want, but because they trust God even in affliction, and praise Him in the midst of all things.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

The early church received the Gospel in unbearable affliction, yet they expressed joy when they were tortured for their faith. We live in a false church age that supposes God has to perform for us. We will not understand all things that happen, but God does, so we can give thanks in all circumstances and trust Him!

The key to faith is not in what you get or do not get from God, but in having a thankful heart, and praising God because He IS!

MARK 9:23-24 "Jesus said unto him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

A: Jesus says to take what small faith you do have and choose to believe.

MATTHEW 17:19-20 "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Q: What if I tell the mountain to move and it doesn't? How do I know when I pray again that it will work this time?

JAMES 1:6-7 "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing from the Lord."

A: Listen to the word of the Lord and then listen to the words of your mouth. Don't give up so easily and stop talking like an unbeliever! Our problems can seem to us as a mountain of concrete at times but God's word tells us to ask God and thank Him for answering our prayer, trusting in Him to know what is best. Believe in God, trust in Him, and then hit the concrete of that mountain with the sledgehammer of God's word until you break through! The man with the sick daughter did not stop believing!

MATTHEW 8:13 "And Jesus said unto the centurion, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour."

A: The examples of answered prayer in scripture show us that Jesus responds to your faith in Him, that it will be done to us even as you believe it will. "Pray without ceasing!" If you want God to answer your prayers and do mighty works in your life, then you must first believe that God is going to answer your prayers and do mighty works in your life!

Matthew 9:28-30 "And when He was come unto the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus saith unto them, "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" They said unto Him, 'Yea, Lord.' Then touched he their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it unto you." And their eyes were opened..."

Those who believe continue earnestly praying and believing in a God who is able! When people do not believe and do not pray, the miracles of God are not done in their lives.

MARK 6:5-6 "And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief..."

A: You believe in God, and faith to believe grows in your spirit when you feed on the Bible; lack of knowledge produces lack of faith.

HOSEA 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

Q: I don't have a Bible College degree and I have to work so I don't have a lot of time for Bible Study. Is strong faith only for pastors and those who have time to study?

ROMANS 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

A: Jesus marvels at people who complain. Even 5 minutes a day of hearing God's word will change your life! Read the Word and pray aloud, and listen to Christian music so your mind will be renewed and your faith will grow!

ROMANS 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

A: God's word will transform you as you come to know and understand who He is.

John 11:37 "And some of them said, 'Could not this Man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?'"

A: The people did not believe what Jesus said, so He showed them, and He showed us, how to approach God confidently in prayer.

JOHN 11:40-42 "Jesus saith unto her, 'Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?' Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me, And I knew that thou hearest me always..."

A: In human form, Jesus modeled for us how to approach God, believing that He IS and asking with great confidence, knowing that God always hears and always answers!

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

A: It is not our place to question God, it is our place to praise Him and trust Him! God wants you to be boldly confident of your faith in Him.

HEBREWS 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Q: I want to believe, but it's hard to have confidence when I don't have any experiences that God really cares about me and wants to answer my prayers. How do I get that kind of faith?

Faith is not about you, and having confidence in getting what you want, but about your having faith in God because He IS! Have faith in God because He created you, because you are breathing today, because He saved you! Seek to know and love Jesus first as your ultimate prayer goal, and the rest will follow.

Luke 12:29-31 "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. ³⁰For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. ³¹But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

A: Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He helps those who come to Him. Jesus hears the longing in your heart and wants to help you grow in faith - ask Him!

PRAYER: *Dear Father, I confess my unbelief to You, and ask You to forgive me. Thank you for loving me even in my weakness, and giving me faith to believe. Help me to remember that my faith will grow as I hear Your word spoken, and pray aloud what You give me to say through Your word and Holy Spirit. Right now, Lord, I thank you that You always hear me and I trust You Jesus. No matter the outcome, I trust You, and praise You because You are God, You know what I need, and You are worthy of my praise! I offer up my prayer and praises to You, and I thank you for all things, **in Jesus name, Amen.***

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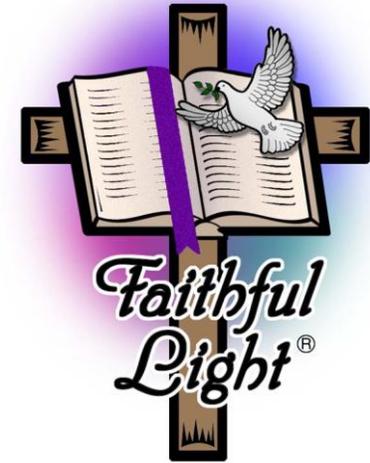
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LIFE TRACK #105

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Bringing God's Word
For
Life's Questions

This tract series has grown from a weekly Bible study targeting personal life issues faced by God's people through the pages of the Bible and in our lives today, while looking to the power of God's word that comes alive through His indwelling Holy Spirit, to bring truth, lasting change and wholeness to our lives. I pray these tracts will help you to become more effective in your individual life and in opening doors to express and share your faith, that many will come to know our God of grace, mercy, love and redemption through your personal ministry to them.