

# The Life of Faith #2:

## The Need for Faith

### WHY DO WE NEED FAITH

If faith is of such great value, a Christian ought to know why he needs faith and how he/she can grow in it.

1. We need faith to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

*And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

2. We need faith to receive salvation.

Romans 3:22 (ESV)

*...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe...*

Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...*

3. We need faith to live by.

Romans 1:17 (ESV)

*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith; as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

4. We need faith to fulfill the Great Commission.

John 6:28-29 (ESV)

*Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."*

5. We need faith to receive answers to our prayers.

Mark 11:24 (ESV)

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

## HOW FAITH IS ACTIVATED

1. Faith is activated by hearing the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

2. Faith is activated by meditating on the Word of God.

Psalms 77:11-12 (ESV)

*I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.*

Psalms 77 is a beautiful example of how meditating on God raises faith. In this Psalm, the author is facing great tribulation, so much so that he is even wondering if the Lord will ever answer. Then he determines in his heart to meditate on God's deed and his attitude changes.

3. Faith is activated by speaking in agreement with the Word of God.

2 Corinthians 4:13 (ESV)

*Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak...*

It is important to notice in this passage that what is being confessed is the Christ's lordship; His sufficiency; and His worthiness.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 (ESV)

*For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord... For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

#### 4. Faith is activated by acting on the Word of God.

To have faith in Jesus means to have such trust in him that we do whatever he says. When we do what God tells us to do, faith is strengthened; increased faith always follows obedience.

James 2:17, 20-22 (ESV)

*So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead...Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the alter? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works...*

#### DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Which of the five reasons why we need faith do you personally find the most challenging? Why? What action step will you take immediately to change?
2. Which of the ways that faith is activated is the easiest for you to understand and embrace and which is the most difficult? Why? What action step will you take to change?

#### HOMEWORK

Choose one of the following:

1. Read chapters 4-6 of the Gospel of John. Note any time that the word "faith" or "believe" is mentioned in those chapters.
2. In the first column on the next page, list the circumstances in your life that cause you to have a difficult time exercising faith. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the Truth through Scripture that speaks to those circumstances. List those Truths in the second column. Speak those Truths over your circumstances for the next week and record how you see God change you, your perspective, and/or your circumstances.

**My Circumstances**

**God's Scriptural Truth**