

Weighing Faith

☞ Review: **Walking by Faith...**

☞ **Video: Trust the Seer; Listen Closely; Obey...** (*His gentle instruction; a quiet voice; held her hands; she was a bit tentative; there was no hurry; she followed instructions carefully; they made it successfully and without harm.*)

Faith doesn't depend on feelings but rather on God's word; Faith isn't in a hurry but will wait on God; Faith isn't intimidated by the size of the situation because it knows the size of God.

☞ **Weighing Faith**

1. The Substance of Faith

☞ **Certain**

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being *sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

Substance of things hoped for... evidence of things not seen

Last week I clarified my thoughts on "blind faith." We are not blindly following God. He gives us enough evidence to trust him. Karise trusted Tony because they have a loving relationship. So "blind faith" doesn't mean without evidence or history. But it does mean we don't have to have all the details in order to trust God.

--Samuel Gordon... It is blind to impossibilities and deaf to doubt. It listens only to God.

☞ **Confident**

Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in *full assurance* of faith,

Ephesians 3:12

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and *confidence.*

David displayed confidence when he approached Goliath.

☞ **Convinced**

Romans 4:20-21 (*Abraham re: Isaac's birth*)

he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being *fully persuaded that God had power* to do what he had promised.

--Donald Barnhouse... True faith acts on supernatural facts and gets supernatural results.

--Martin Luther... Faith is a living, well-founded confidence in the grace of God, so perfectly certain that it would die a thousand times rather than surrender its conviction.

Certain; Confident; Convinced

2. 🗨️ Sorts of Faith

🗨️ Lacking faith

Matthew 13:58 (*in Jesus' hometown*)

he did not do many miracles there because of their *lack of faith*.

Mark 16:14 (*when his disciples disbelieved his resurrection*)

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their *lack of faith* and their *stubborn refusal to believe* those who had seen him after he had risen.

Lacking faith is basically unbelief which is a tremendous hindrance to God's works.

🗨️ Little faith

Matthew 8:26

He replied, "You of *little faith*, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Matthew 14:31 (*Peter sinking in the water*)

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of *little faith*," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Peter? A man of little faith? He's the one that got out of the boat! What about the other disciples still holding on to the boat for dear life? What about them? If Peter is a man of little faith, what are they?

If a person is in a constant state of not trusting Jesus and not wanting to learn more about his ways, this is called "unbelief" in the Bible. However, those people charged with "little faith" are experiencing a knowledge problem or a trust problem within a certain situation. When Matthew talks about a person having "little faith" he is not challenging what they believe, but how much they trust.

🗨️ Great faith

Matthew 8:10 (*re: the centurion who understood authority*)

When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith

Matthew 15:28 (*the daughter was demon-possessed*)

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

What caused Jesus to be amazed at their great faith? In both cases they were certain, confident and convinced that Jesus could do what they asked. And, their faith was driven by compassion for someone else.

--Spurgeon... Little faith will bring your soul to heaven; great faith will bring heaven to your soul.

Now, you might be in the camp of "little faith." But here's the good news: You can have...

☞ **Growing faith**

Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more...

So, how can you grow faith? Ask, just like the Apostles did.

Read the Word: Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Act on it: James 2:17 says, "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." If it's dead, it's not growing.

☞ **Full faith**

Acts 6:5

They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit

Acts 11:24 (*Barnabas*)

He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith

I want to be a person who is full of faith—walking in the confidence of who God is and completely trusting in His power and ability. Don't you?

Lacking; little; great; growing; full faith

3. ☞ **Sources of Faith**

☞ **God**

Ephesians 2:8

...saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, *it is the gift of God*

☞ **Jesus**

Acts 3:16

It is Jesus' name and the *faith that comes through him* that has given this complete healing...

☞ Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:9

...to another *faith by the same Spirit*

Remember Romans 10:17 which says faith comes from hearing the Word. The Word reveals God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Our source of faith is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

4. ☞ Sabotage to Faith

☞ Doubt

Matthew 14:31 (*Peter*)

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you *doubt?*"

It was doubt that sabotaged Peter's faith. He was doing something incredible until doubt crept in.

--John R. Rice... *Never put a question mark where God has put a period.*

☞ Disbelief

Mark 16:14

he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their *stubborn refusal to believe...*

Hebrews 3:19 (*re: Israel and the Promised Land*)

we see that they were not able to enter, because of their *unbelief*.

Mark 1:23 says, "Everything is possible for one who believes." So, if there's disbelief, then little to nothing is possible.

--F.B. Meyer... *Unbelief puts our circumstance between us and God, but faith puts God between us and our circumstances.*

☞ Denial of conscience

1 Timothy 1:18-19 basically says that if we reject our good conscience it will shipwreck our faith. The Holy Spirit frequently speaks and directs us through our conscience. As we pay attention and respond to that it increases our faith. If we ignore it, our faith will wreck.

☞ Dereliction of duty

James 2:26

As the body without the spirit is dead, *so faith without deeds is dead.*

2 Peter 1:5 instructs us to add to our faith. So is not just a matter of believing something. It's a matter of believing enough to *do* something. When we don't do something with our faith, eventually our faith will die.

--T. S. Eliot... *The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he will stake his life on his belief.*

Doubt; disbelief; denial; dereliction

5. 📖 **The Stability of Faith**

📖 **Unshakeable**

Psalms 125:1

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

📖 **Untiring**

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

According to the National Bureau of Standards, a dense fog covering seven city blocks to a depth of 100 feet is composed of something less than one glass of water. If we could see into the future and if we could see our problems in their true light, they wouldn't blind us, but instead could be relegated to their true size and place.

When we focus on who God is and just how big he is, our problems begin to seem very small. Believe whatever God says, no matter how unbelievable it seems.

📖 **Matthew 19:26**

with God all things are possible.

📖 **Luke 1:37**

nothing is impossible with God.

📖 Let's be people of faith, who **trust God** in all circumstances. Let's **act on what we believe**. If you need a healing and believe that God heals, then you should act on that and ask for his healing. You should ask for others to pray with you. I believe coming forward to get prayed for is a step of faith.

📖 Let's furnish our minds with the truths of God's Word. **Read your Bible!** Let's grow in our faith and add to our faith, so that we may become people of great faith and people who are full of faith. **Ask God to increase your faith.** Keep moving toward Christ.