

YEAR OF GROWTH

FAITH WEEK 4

EXERCISE

How To Grow in Faith:

It is important to understand the meaning of faith and to see examples of the characteristic in Scripture. Yet, it is also important to do the work necessary to have faith and to develop stronger faith. Our focus will be on passages that teach what one must do to have and to grow faith.

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe faith. Think back over the previous lessons and examples of faith. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of faith and prepare to explore more Bible examples of faith.

Day Two – Monday

Romans 10:8-21

To grow in faith, one must hear the Word of God.

Paul declared that God's Word is close to us. It is only as far away as the nearest Bible. When God's word is heard, read, or studied, it produces faith. Thus, to grow one's faith requires hearing, reading, and studying the Bible.

The same truth is available for both Jew and Gentile. Sadly, the Jews largely rejected the Gospel while many of the Gentiles accepted and obeyed it. This Truth requires senders to send preachers who will preach to hearers who will obey! This is the way to faith and to greater faith.

Day Three – Tuesday

Mark 4:35-41

To grow in faith, one must let go of fear.

There are three components of Bible faith – belief, trust, and obedience (Heb. 11:6). One who is fearful has misplaced trust. The disciples trusted in the weather or the normal processes of the natural world. Instead, they should have trusted in Jesus. Worldly sources of trust are unsteady and unstable – they will always disappoint. Once the Word of God has been learned, the God of the Word must be trusted! “So that we may boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me’” (Heb. 13:6; cf. Mt. 10:28, 31; Lk. 2:10; 12:32; Rom. 8:15; 1 Jn. 4:18).

Day Four – Wednesday

Luke 16:10-13

To grow in faith, one must exercise stewardship.

The principle of Jesus' statement is easy to understand. If a person will not be faithful in small things, he should not be entrusted with greater things for he will not be faithful in that either. One's actions demonstrate his character.

If we want to have great faith, we must first be a good steward of "small" faith. Do we see our money and material blessings as opportunities to demonstrate faith in God? Or do we allow our desire for those things to hinder us from service to God. Do we use our talents serve God and to grow greater talents? Or are we content to "hide them" and claim that we are unable to do anything in the Lord's kingdom?

If we do not nurture and care for our faith, it will not grow to be the faith that stands strong in the storms of life and pleases God in eternity.

Day Five – Thursday

Luke 17:1-10

To grow in faith, one must embrace humility.

The apostles said the Jesus, "Lord, increase our faith." This statement was made in the context of forgiving a penitent brother seven times in one day. The apostles seemed to think that to be so forgiving required an extraordinary faith. Jesus taught them that the smallest faith is capable of the greatest deeds – if it is held with humility.

It is easy to forgive others when we realize how in need of forgiveness we are ourselves! No matter what great work is accomplished, we are still "unprofitable servants" doing our duty in service to a majestic and powerful God. Our faith must not cause us to look down upon others but, rather, to reach out to them. Faith is a continual reminder that our trust is placed completely in God – on Whom we depend for everything.

Day Six – Friday

Matthew 6:24-24

To grow in faith, one must live by faith.

The Lord promises to provide our needs if we seek first His kingdom and righteousness. Do we trust Him enough to live by faith. Or do we "sell out" what we know to be right in order to take care of ourselves. Faith will only get stronger if we exercise it – use it in our daily lives.

Day Seven – Saturday

James 2:14-26

To grow in faith, one must work.

James makes it clear that faith without works is dead. A dead faith cannot grow nor sustain one in life. Verse 22 should be understood, written down, and memorized. Faith works with one's works to make faith complete or perfect! Faith will grow stronger when we obey the will of God.