

If My People I Will August 24 & 27, 2017

(2 Chronicles 7:14) "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

(James 1:6-7) 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.

(Matthew 21:22) "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

(Matthew 17:20) He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, 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."

The Faith Life-cycle

✓ Faith is birthed in God-centered environments.

(Luke 8:5-8) "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

1. When we read God's Word.

(Romans 10:17 ESV) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

(1 Kings 3:9 MSG) "Here's what I want: Give me a God-listening heart so I can lead your people well, discerning the difference between good and evil."

2. When we worship.

(2 Kings 3:15-16 ESV) "But now bring me a musician." And when the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him. And he said, "Thus says the Lord, 'I will make this dry streambed full of pools.'"

3. When we are in the company of the faithful.

(Psalm 92:12-13) The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

✓ Faith grows when challenged.

(1 Peter 1:7) These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1. Faith believes when we do not see.

(Hebrews 11:1) Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

2. Faith persists when nothing changes.

(Colossians 4:2 GNT) Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.

3. Faith obeys when it doesn't make sense.

(Luke 5:4-5) When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

✓ Faith is matured through faithful action.

(James 2:17-18,22) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

1. When we step out.

(Malachi 3:10) "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

2. When we speak out.

(2 Corinthians 4:13 GNT) The scripture says, "I spoke because I believed." In the same spirit of faith we also speak because we believe.

3. When we work it out.

(Romans 4:20-21) No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.