

New Christian Growth Series

Topical Study:

Faith





Instructions:

1. Please fill in the blanks in these lessons and the review booklet, using a King James Version of the Bible.
2. When you are finished, keep this lesson book and **return the completed review booklet** by U.S. mail or e-mail to:

Plowman's Academy

575 US Highway 250 OR plowman@mapministry.org

Greenwich, OH 44837

3. When we receive your review booklet, we will grade it, send it back to you, and send the next course in this volume.
4. When you have completed all 12 books in this course, we will send you a certificate.

Plowman's Academy was started to provide the opportunity for teens and adults to study God's Word more deeply, imitate Jesus more closely, and be more sensitive and obedient to God's Holy Spirit—all through the means of correspondence (communication by letters or mail) courses. Jesus taught us that when we set out to follow Him, we ought to do so with no regrets, no second thoughts, and no turning back. We welcome you to join us as we aim to turn from sin, surrender to God, seek Him until He rains righteousness upon us, and then follow Him faithfully and fully forever. Let us look always to Jesus and live always for eternity, for Jesus Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Thank you for joining us. An academy is a place of study or training in a specific subject or skill. At Plowman's Academy, the subject is Jesus. Put your hand to the plow and do not look back.



And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

~Luke 9:62

Giving Credit and Appreciation to Ray Witmer

Ray Witmer, author of this Bible study curriculum, has given us permission to use his studies taken from the Word of God.

We are very grateful and appreciate Brother Ray's heart for God and his willingness to let us use his resources to spread God's Word among this generation of people.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

~Hosea 10:12

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INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR BIBLE LESSONS

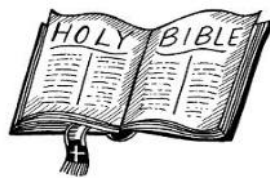
- A. The Bible verses used in this study are taken from the King James Version of the Bible, translated out of the original tongues with the former translation diligently compared and revised.
- B. Before doing each lesson, take time to ask God to open your understanding and show you the truth.
- C. For the best results, do only one lesson each day. Meditate on each day's lesson (there are four weeks of lessons per book).
- D. Keep in mind that these lessons are based on what the Bible says and not on man's opinion.
- E. These lessons are designed to help you to know the truth, to know the Lord in a personal way, and to trust what the Bible says and teaches you.
- F. Remember, it is not what you, I, or any preacher says, but what the Bible says.
- G. You must learn to stand on what the Bible says to "study to show yourself approved unto God, workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
- H. Who wrote the Bible? (2 Peter 1:21).
- I. All Scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16).
- J. Regardless of what man says, the believer (Christian) has direct access to the throne of God and is responsible directly to God. This access is through Jesus Christ and Him only (1 Timothy 2:5).
- K. These studies are to help you have peace of mind (Isaiah 26:3-4).
- L. These studies will help you know if you are going to heaven or hell (Romans 10:13).
- M. These lessons will help you with assurance and security; these are not the same. The securing of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of salvation depending solely upon His infinite grace. Assurance is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. This is why it is important to know what the Bible says (1 John 5:11-13).



**TAKE TIME TO READ BELOW
BEFORE DOING THIS LESSON**

Meditate on the Scriptures of This Lesson and
Ask Yourself These Questions:

1. What do these verses teach me about God and myself?
2. Is there an example here to follow or avoid?
3. Is there a command, a promise, or a warning that I need to apply?
4. What action do I need to take to align my life with this truth?



The Bible is the Word of God

LESSON 1

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Everyone seeks to please God, but the Bible says in Hebrews 11:6 that without faith, it is impossible to please Him. Faith is the one requirement for receiving God's grace and favor.

Christ recognized faith above all others virtues. The Syrophenician woman in Matthew 15:21-28 sought the Lord diligently; however, she was not rewarded for her perseverance, but rather for her faith.

"Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy _____: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour" (Matthew 15:28).

The centurion came to the Lord in humility, but his servant was healed only because of the centurion's faith.

"When Jesus heard it, He _____, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so _____, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:10).

The blind man in Mark 10:46-52 was earnest in his plea, but only received his sight because of his faith.

"And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy _____ hath made thee _____. And _____ he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way" (Mark 10:52).

In 2 Peter 1:5-7, faith is the foundation upon which the seven other graces of our spiritual temple are laid.

"For if these things be _____, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor _____ in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8).

"But without _____ it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God _____ that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that _____ seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

When the apostle Paul lists the three graces in 1 Corinthians 13:13, he says the greatest is love, but he makes faith the basis of the other two graces.

"Now faith is the substance [assurance] of things _____ for, the _____ of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

The only hope you have is in Jesus. To doubt His existence would leave no basis for hope. Faith is also the very evidence of love; for how can you love Him whom you have not seen without perfect confidence in His existence?

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet _____, ye _____ with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the _____ of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Your faith is in Jesus. Therefore, to fear because of circumstances around you is to doubt the very nature of Jesus Christ and His power over those circumstances and your eternal security.

Today's Bible reading is 2 Timothy chapter 3.

LESSON 2

WHAT IS FAITH?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

It is very difficult to define faith, because the word “faith” is used in so many different ways. Faith is used in the Scripture both in a general and a particular sense.

Faith in the general sense involves having knowledge of the Word of God, accepting its claims as true, and personally receiving its benefits or promises.

What relation does knowledge of the Word of God have to faith? Faith is based upon knowledge of the Word of God.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the _____ of God” (Romans 10:17).

To be rich in faith requires a rich knowledge of God's Word. Believing God's Word at face value is to believe in the One who spoke those words.

“And they that _____ Thy name will put their _____ in Thee: for Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that _____ Thee” (Psalm 9:10).

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have _____? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have _____? and how shall they hear without a _____?” (Romans 10:14).

Faith is based upon the very best evidence—the Word of God, which shall stand forever (Isaiah 40:8).

By faith, the scales fall from our eyes, revealing hidden spiritual truths to which our heart responds. Founded in God Himself, who cannot sin (Titus 1:2), nothing can be more certain than this knowledge.

Faith is concerned with spiritual and eternal things in which certainty is surely needed. If there is no certainty, your faith is in vain.

Faith is not a leap into the dark, but is a well-lit highway.

“The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth _____ unto the simple” (Psalm 119:130).

“Thy Word is a _____ unto my feet, and a _____ unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Your knowledge of God's Word must not only be in your head, but also in your heart.

“Thy Word have I _____ in mine _____, that I might not sin against Thee” (Psalm 119:11).

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 10.

LESSON 3

ACCEPTING THE CLAIMS OF THE BIBLE AS TRUE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Knowledge of the Word of God is essential, but you must also take the next step and acknowledge the things you know as being true (Mark 12:32). Knowing that Jesus is able to save and that He is the Savior of the world, you must also yield your heart to all of the Bible's claims.

“But as many as _____, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that _____ on His name.” (John 1:12).

Those who received Christ to be all that He claimed to be and believed in Him became part of the family of God.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt _____ in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the _____ man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

When a person receives Christ by faith, he has a deep conviction that He is real and that all of the things said in the Bible concerning Him are true.

Like Joshua, you may face daily obstacles that seem to push your faith to the breaking point, and yet it is during the times of adversity that God honors your faith the most (James 1:2-4). When you refuse to follow Him into risky situations, the results can be devastating to your spiritual growth.

Consider the consequences of disobedience on your life:

- You can never become the person that God wants you to be.
- You limit your usefulness to God.
- You are willing to live a life of rationalized disobedience.
- You'll be governed by fear rather than faith.
- You risk losing not only rewards in heaven, but also blessings on earth.

Are you in any way refusing God's call? The Lord is trustworthy. Whatever His plan of action is for you, be assured that He will see you safely through the ordeal.

What do you feel that God is calling you to do?

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 1.

LESSON 4

FAITH IS ASSURANCE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

As a believer, you have a foundation of assurance built from both God's Word and your experiences of His trustworthiness.

"Now faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the evidence of things not _____. For by it the elders obtained a _____" (Hebrews 11:1-2).

"Through _____ we understand that the worlds were framed by the _____ of _____, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more _____ sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was _____, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).

To exercise effective faith, you must go beyond simply thinking that God can do all things. You must actually assume He will do all things.

Faith is like a spiritual eye for believers; though your physical eyesight may not detect evidence that God is answering your prayer, you can be confident He will fulfill every promise He makes to you.

"By _____ Enoch was translated [taken up] that he should not see _____; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he _____" (Hebrews 11:5).

"But without faith it is _____ to _____ Him: for he that cometh to God must _____ that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently _____ Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

You have complete access to a heavenly Father who is personally interested in your life. He will act on your behalf. The faith-filled believer can approach any situation and say, "I have assurance in the living God, and I am anticipating His answer."

"Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in _____ by prayer and supplication with _____ let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).

Why is it that people can rely on an airplane or automobile without question, but we sometimes fail to trust almighty God?

Today's Bible reading is Philippians chapter 4.

LESSON 5

FAITH IS ACTION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Christians have the capacity to believe God for far more than they are typically willing to ask Him to do.

“By _____ Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet [the flood], moved with fear, prepared an ark to the _____ of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by _____” (Hebrews 11:7).

Instead of demonstrating a solid conviction of faithfulness (like Noah), you may often act out of a weak, half-hearted belief.

“By faith Abraham, when he was _____ to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, _____; and he went out, not _____ whither he went” (Hebrews 11:8).

The Lord is waiting for uncertain believers to come to Him in complete trust. People living the richest spiritual lives are those who anticipate the Lord doing great things—they exercise the gift of faith.

“By faith he [Abraham] sojourned in the land of _____, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles [tents] with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same _____:” (Hebrews 11:9).

“For he looked [was waiting] for a city which hath foundations, whose _____ and _____ is _____” (Hebrews 11:10).

Instead of folding your hands and waiting for God to do something, you need to get busy. Your first responsibility is to go before the Lord with your petition, sometimes more than once. Then, you must consciously decide to trust Him.

“Through _____ also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him _____ who had _____” (Hebrews 11:11).

Exercising faith cannot be passive. Notice that an action word (prepared, obeyed, and lived) follows every mention of the word “faith” in Hebrews 11.

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from _____ to _____: as it is written, The just shall _____ by _____” (Romans 1:17).

God did amazing feats through the lives of the men and women described in Hebrews 11. As a believer, you have the same potential for Him to work powerfully through you. Start today by giving Him the small anxieties that plague you.

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 1.

LESSON 6

THE SWAYING BATTLE OF FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

It is easy to have faith that God is going to do something in the distant future. For instance, is it hard for you to believe that Jesus is returning one day?

“James, a _____ of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting” (James 1:1).

“My brethren, count it all _____ when ye fall into divers temptations [various trials]; Knowing this, that the trying of your _____ worketh _____” (James 1:2-3).

Your day-to-day life is where you must practice unswerving faith if you hope to be effective for the Lord.

“But let patience have her _____, that ye may be perfect and entire [complete], _____” (James 1:4).

“If any of you lack _____, let him ask of _____, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be _____ him” (James 1:5).

In the Christian life, you may rush forward to do the Lord's will until He makes a difficult request or allows a painful experience to confront you. Suddenly, it is very easy to be driven in the other direction by your doubts.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering [not doubting]. For he that wavereth is like a _____ of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive _____ of the Lord. A double minded man is _____ in all his ways” (James 1:6-8).

The Bible tells you that your faith cannot be like the waves of the sea. Stormy waters rush first in one direction and then seem to double back on themselves and race the opposite way.

“And it came to pass after these things, that _____ did tempt [test] Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou _____, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and _____ there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and _____ his son, and clave [split] the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which _____ had _____” (Genesis 22:1-3).

What faith in God! Continue reading Genesis 22 to see how God rewarded that faith and saved Isaac. Do you have that kind of faith?

Today's Bible reading is Genesis chapter 22.

LESSON 7

WHY WE HESITATE TO HAVE FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

“And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed [crowded] upon Him [Jesus] to hear the _____ of _____, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fisherman were gone out of them, and were washing their _____” (Luke 5:1-2).

“And He [Jesus] entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed [asked] him that he would thrust out a little from the _____. And He sat down, and _____ the people out of the ship. Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your _____ for a draught [catch]” (Luke 5:3-4).

“And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have _____ all the night, and have taken [caught] nothing: nevertheless at Thy Word I will _____ the _____. And when they had this done, they inclosed [caught] a great _____ of fishes: and their net brake [was breaking]” (Luke 5:5-6).

On the Sea of Galilee, the optimal time for fishing had passed hours earlier, so the fisherman were cleaning their nets instead of trying to catch fish. However, Peter lowered his net into the water at the request of Jesus; the reward for Peter's trust and faith was a net-breaking catch.

“And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and _____ them. And they came, and _____ the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a _____, O Lord” (Luke 5:7-8).

As a believer, sometimes you rely on your own faculties to decide whether or not you will trust and have faith in God. Perhaps what He is asking of you seems unreasonable at times.

“For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught [catch] of the _____ which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, _____; from henceforth thou shalt catch _____. And when they had brought their ships to land, they _____ all, and _____” (Luke 5:9-11).

What did Jesus mean when He said “henceforth thou shalt catch men”?

The next time you find yourself in doubt, think about what is causing you to hesitate. Then, you can pray specifically to overcome the faith hurdle and move on to receive your reward.

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 5.

LESSON 8

OVERCOMING SWAYING FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

“And straightway Jesus constrained [compelled] His disciples to get into a _____, and to go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a _____ apart [by Himself] to _____: and when the evening was come, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:22-23). (Note that Jesus made an effort to be alone when he prayed.)

“But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the _____ was _____. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, _____ on the _____. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were _____, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for _____” (Matthew 14:24-26).

The Lord wants to do far more in believers' lives and through their witness than they may be willing to allow. Perhaps you believe that He can do great things (like walking on water), but the problem is that you are not sure He will act on your behalf. Consequently, you may feel you are unable to trust or have faith in Him fully for personal answers.

“But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good _____; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be Thou, bid me _____ unto Thee _____ the _____. And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he _____ on the _____, to go to Jesus” (Matthew 14:27-29).

If you desire to calm the sea of faith, you must first act on your will rather than simply making choices according to feelings or sight. Peter walked on water because he proceeded in trust instead of reason. As a believer, you will not become stable in your faith until you recognize that believing God is a choice.

“But when he [Peter] saw the wind boisterous [violent], he was _____; and beginning to _____, he cried, saying, _____, _____. And immediately Jesus _____ His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of _____, wherefore [why] didst thou doubt?” (Matthew 14:30-31)

The second action of a faithful believer is to focus attention on God. When you look at your circumstance, you are restricted to your own limited view of the situation. As long as Peter was staring at Jesus, his feet stayed on the water's surface, but the moment he looked at the wind-whipped waves, he began to sink. Will you keep your eyes on Jesus?

“And when they [Jesus and Peter] were come into the ship, the wind _____. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth thou art the _____ of _____” (Matthew 14:32-33).

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 14.

LESSON 9

THE FAITH TO HOLD OUT

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Sometimes your life may seem like a long, dark tunnel. Perhaps you are unable to discover a solution for a problem or cannot find relief from pain. Regardless of the direction you turn, you find no hope for anything better than your present discouraging circumstances.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about [surrounded] with so great a cloud of _____, let us lay aside every weight, and the _____ which doth so _____ beset us, and let us run with _____ the race that is set before us,...” (Hebrews 12:1).

“Looking unto Jesus the _____ and _____ of our faith: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the _____, despising the shame, and is set down at the _____ hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of _____ against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint [discouraged] in your minds” (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Thankfully, you serve a God who feels your pain and knows your limitations first-hand. Jesus Christ walked through the valley of the shadow of death and cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34). This means that when your faith is stretched to the breaking point, your strength is exhausted, and your dreams are broken like shattered glass, Jesus understands; He asks you to hold out when everything in you screams to give up.

“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against _____. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the _____ of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord _____ He _____, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth” (Hebrews 12:4-6).

“If ye _____ chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the _____ chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not _____” (Hebrews 12:7-8).

Giving up means abandoning God's help and relying on your own puny strength.

Even when you cannot detect His involvement, God is working every moment on your problems, but you must trust His perfect timing for revealing the answer. Your Father knows your hurt, and He will bring you through that dark tunnel. Do not give up before reaching His blessing.

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 12.

LESSON 10

IS YOUR FAITH ON TRIAL?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Some days you may feel as if your faith is on trial, and Satan is challenging your confidence in God, but the only important question is this: Are you going to believe what the Lord says, no matter what He allows into your life?

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery _____ which is to try you, as though some _____ thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of _____; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be _____ also with exceeding _____” (1 Peter 4:12-13).

“If ye be reproached [insulted] for the _____ of _____, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is _____” (1 Peter 4:14).

“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an _____, or as a busybody [meddler] in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a _____, let him not be ashamed; but let him _____ God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the _____ of God?” (1 Peter 4:15-17).

The heavenly Father always has a purpose for testing a believer's faith. He stretches you, so you will have a great capacity to serve Him. Though you may sometimes feel you are at your limit, the process actually occurs gently, like stretching a new rubber band a little at a time. With each extension, you are able to accomplish more for His glory.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the _____ of _____, that He may _____ you in due time: Casting all your _____ upon Him; for He _____ for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never _____, nor _____. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, and I will not _____ what man shall do unto me. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ is the _____ yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:5-8).

Your unchanging Lord never deserts you; He asks you to cast your cares upon Him. These beautiful assurances are yours to claim when you're tempted to quit. Have faith in Him, cling to His promises, and commit to His way. Never give up!

What have you learned about faith in this lesson?

Today's Bible reading is 1 Peter chapter 5.

LESSON 11

WHY GOD TRIES OUR FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

You should ask some basic questions when investigating why God is trying your faith: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? With regard to growing faith, you already know the answer to some of those questions. God builds your trust anywhere and anytime. You'll study how He does this work, but today, you will focus on why strong faith is important to the Lord.

1. Faith trials draw your attention to Him.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of _____, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your _____ upon _____; for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

2. Faith trials teach endurance.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, _____, seeking whom he may _____: Whom resist steadfast in the _____, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished [experienced] in your brethren that are in the _____" (1 Peter 5:8-9).

3. Faith trials train you for higher service.

"But the God of all grace, who hath _____ into His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have _____ a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 5:10-11).

4. Faith trials glorify God.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by _____ through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through _____ in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of _____ that are past, through the forbearance of _____; To declare, I say, at this time His _____: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which _____ in _____" (Romans 3:23-26).

The greatest praise you can give to your heavenly Father is to walk hopefully through a dark valley. You are a living example of His faithfulness and trustworthiness for everyone to see.

5. Faith trials help you die to self.

"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of _____. Therefore we conclude that a man is _____ by _____ without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:27-28).

As your faith increases, others witness the reality of Christ in your life. You also benefit personally by having greater confidence and anticipation of His blessing. What steps will you take to walk by faith?

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 3.

LESSON 12

PRECIOUS FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Your tested faith is more precious than perishable gold. The more money you spend in life, the less you have, but your assurance in God never runs out as you use it. Men are often impoverished by quests for gold, but faith can only enrich a person; and while money may temporarily appease one's greed, trust in Jesus satisfies the soul forever.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively _____ by the _____ of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an _____ incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in _____ for _____," (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Before a piece of gold can become a beautiful necklace or a perfectly shaped coin, it must be refined by fire and crafted with tools. In the same way, God sends trials into Christians' lives to shape His children. His ultimate goal is to transform each believer into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

"...Who are kept by the _____ of God through _____ unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly _____, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." (1 Peter 1:5-6).

God uses many tools in His transformation process: disappointment at work, broken relationships, illness, and financial problems are just a few. He always chooses the device that will best build your faith in the area He is focused upon.

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that _____, though it be tried [tested] with fire, might be found unto _____ and _____ and _____ at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet _____, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your _____, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:7-9).

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but _____ is _____, who will not suffer you to be tempted _____ that ye are _____; but will with the temptation also make a way to _____, that ye may be able to bear [endure] it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Your faith is precious to God. Though His work is sometimes painful, He will never challenge you beyond what you can stand; and through the refining fire and shaping process, the Master Craftsman holds you closely.

Write down some things that you are going to trust God for by faith:

Today's Bible reading is 1 Corinthians chapter 10.

LESSON 13

WHAT IT MEANS TO PRAY IN FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

Have you ever accused the Lord of not answering your prayers? When you face a troubling time in which God doesn't seem to respond to your petitions, the first thing you should do is take a good look at the message of your prayer. Are you truly praying in faith and trusting your heavenly Father to work a miracle, or are you simply complaining to Him about everything that has gone wrong?

“And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree _____ from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto Him [Jesus], Master, behold, the fig tree which Thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have _____ in _____” (Mark 11:20-22).

Think about whether you have ever prayed like this: “Oh, God, the situation at this place is just terrible. People around me shouldn't treat me in this manner. I go out of my way to help them, but they just walk all over me. I never get any appreciation. I never get what I deserve. I, I, I... me, me, me...” Sound familiar?

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou _____, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not _____ in his heart, but shall _____ that those things which he saith shall _____ to _____; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:23).

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, _____ that ye receive them, and ye shall _____ them. And when ye stand praying, _____, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may _____ your trespasses” (Mark 11:24-25).

You've most likely lifted up a prayer at some point in which you have doubted, and have found that this kind of praying does not bring about miraculous, sweeping change. Why is that? The answer is in focus, which in most cases is “self.” A self-focused prayer is not the prayer of faith that the Lord Jesus told us about.

“But if ye do not _____, neither will your Father which is in heaven _____” (Mark 11:26).

Praying in faith means earnestly seeking the Lord's wisdom and power for your life. It means laying down any claims, any personal motivations, and any complaints you may have, and surrendering yourself fully to whatever He has for you. When you move yourself out of the way, you give God room to maneuver, and that's when you'll see His power displayed.

What will you do to get faith?

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 11.

LESSON 14

THE EXPRESSION OF FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

People put their trust in different things. Some place faith in the Lord; others trust in themselves or another person. Faith can even be placed in relationships, money, or politics. Anytime you put absolute trust in something, you demonstrate faith. So, the question isn't, "Do I have any faith?" but rather, "In what have I placed my faith?" Looking at that question honestly will shape your assumptions about your spiritual life.

"By _____ Abraham, when he was tried [tested], _____ Isaac: and he that had received the _____ offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that _____ was able to _____ him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure [figurative sense]" (Hebrews 11:17-19).

An old saying states, "Faith gives feet to belief." This means that faith is the active expression of what you believe about God. If you think that God sits in some far-off place called "heaven" and only half-heartedly listens to your prayers, then that belief will reveal itself in your day-to-day walk of faith. Your God will seem small, powerless, and disinterested. The result will be a string of seemingly unanswered prayers and a general sense of defeat.

"By _____ Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By _____ Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. By _____ Joseph, when he died, made mention of the _____ of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones" (Hebrews 11:20-22).

If, on the other hand, you believe that God is right beside you, whispering in your ear, pouring out His Holy Spirit upon you, and that God is intimately familiar and concerned with every part of your life, major or minor, then such a belief will impact your faith walk as well. Prayer will be a joyful exchange, and the evidence of our heavenly Father's miraculous power will become common in your daily life.

"By _____ Moses, when he was born, was _____ three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper [beautiful] child; and they were _____ of the king's commandment. By _____ Moses, when he was come to years [had grown up], refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer _____ with the people of God, than to _____ the _____ of _____ for a season;" (Hebrews 11:23-25).

Weak faith says, "God can." Great faith says, "God will." But perfect faith says, "It's done." Your faith is your testimony.

What does your faith say about God?

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 11.

LESSON 15

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

Have you ever see an elaborate, masterfully crafted sand castle? They can be one of the most delightful experiences of a trip to the beach—you get to see some beautiful works of art in an unusual form. The best builders are painstakingly particular in every little detail. The towers are straight, the windows are even, and sometimes the outline of individual bricks can even be seen on each wall. The end result is often stunning!

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and _____ them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a _____: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it _____: for it was founded upon a rock” (Matthew 7:24-25).

There's a catch, however, for despite all its splendor, a sand castle's hours are numbered. From the moment the first grain of sand is set in place, you can be sure that the miniature building is on its way to oblivion. Within hours, the details are destroyed. Wind, rain, the tide, and over-anxious spectators can wreck the masterpiece in seconds. There is simply no future for a house of sand.

“And every one that _____ these sayings of mine, and _____ them _____, shall be likened unto a _____ man, which built his house upon the _____: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it _____: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:26-27).

Sometimes a believer's faith is like a sand castle. Even though everything looks perfect on the outside, the slightest nudge from the elements can bring the whole building crashing down. An unexpected hardship, an unkind word from a friend, bad health, or a financial crisis can cause faith to turn to rubble. How can that be possible?

“Therefore being justified by _____, we have _____ with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by _____ into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in _____ also: knowing that tribulations worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our _____ by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:1-5).

Weak foundations produce weak faith. If your life of faith is centered around church attendance, ministry work, discipleship programs, and other seemingly “good” things, then your sand castle is on its way to destruction. Only a faith built on the rock-solid foundation of Christ—and Christ alone—can withstand the winds of adversity.

Now that you have completed your lesson and have read the Bible chapter given to you, go off by yourself and be alone. Sit for 10 minutes and close your mind to what is going on around you. Try not to think about anything but hearing God's voice. Try doing this every day after completing your lesson; it will cause you to draw closer to God.

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 5.

LESSON 16

BUILDING A FAITH FOUNDATION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

So far in these lessons, you have been examining the nature of faith; but upon what must you build a strong faith in the Lord? Let's look at seven keystones of the foundation of faith.

1. God is real. Faith must be built around the simple confession that the Lord is real—that He exists and is indeed God. Read Romans 1:20, and then explain why you believe that God is real:

2. God is love. Not only is God real, but He is intimately concerned with your life and wants to engage in a relationship with you. Read John 3:16, and then explain why you believe that God is concerned about you:

3. God is just. You never have to wonder whether or not the Lord will treat you fairly. His justice is absolutely perfect. Read Romans 3:22-23, and then explain why you feel God is just:

4. God is all-knowing. He knows your heart, your pain, and your questions; you cannot shock or surprise Him. Read Hebrews 4:15, and then explain why you think God is all-knowing:

5. God is everywhere. You never have to wonder where God is; in truth, you cannot escape Him. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, He is right by your side. Read Joshua 1:9, and then explain why you know God is right by your side:

6. God is all-powerful. There is nothing greater than God. No matter how enormous the challenges and heartaches in your life seem to be, you can overcome them in His power. Read Hebrews 4:12, and then explain God's power:

7. God is faithful. That is, He is utterly and completely dependable. God's children know that they can always count on Him. No matter how far you stray, He remains at your side. Regardless of what you have done, He will always welcome you home. Read 1 Corinthians 1:9, and then explain how you know that God is faithful:

Today's Bible reading is 1 Corinthians chapter 10.

LESSON 17

THE NEED FOR INCREASED FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

Today's Scripture passage in Luke gives a wonderful exchange between Jesus and His disciples. The Lord made two statements that completely shocked His disciples. In response, they offered only one exclamation: "Increase our faith!" What were the two things that Jesus said that, in turn, demanded a greater level of personal faithfulness?

"Then said He unto the disciples, It is _____ but that offences [stumbling blocks] will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should _____ one of these little ones" (Luke 17:1-2).

First, Jesus warned the disciples that hardships would surely come. In this life, there is no escape from the sorrows of the world. As new believers, many people are shocked to discover that faith in Christ does not eradicate all problems and sin (John 16:33). Committed Christians are certain to experience heartaches and disappointments at various times.

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, _____ him. And if he trespass against thee _____ times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt _____ him" (Luke 17:3-4).

Second, Jesus commands believers to have a total willingness to forgive others: "If your brother... repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' then forgive him." The "seven times a day" language is an illustration of persistent forgiveness; it is the model according to which all believers should live their lives. Christ's forgiveness is limitless; as His follower, who is indwelt by His Spirit, you should strive for that same level of grace in your interactions with others.

"And the apostles said unto the Lord, _____ our _____. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a _____ of _____ seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should _____ you" (Luke 17:5-6).

Hearing these high ideals, the disciples could make no other comment than, "Increase our faith!" They knew the Christian life was beyond their own power; therefore, they asked Jesus to empower them to meet His standard.

Are you prepared to make that same request to the Lord today? _____

How do you want God to increase your faith?

Is there a person in your life that has trespassed against you, whom you need to forgive? Please explain:

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 17.

LESSON 18

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

What are some practical steps you can take to increase your level of faith?

1. Read the Bible.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the _____ of _____” (Romans 10:17).

That is, you must feed your faith with a steady diet of God's Word. Just a thought: In a steady diet of food, you eat three meals per day; do you read three chapters from God's Word every day?

2. Exercise your faith. An aspiring body-builder doesn't begin training by lifting 500 pounds the first day. Rather, he exercises daily, gradually increasing his strength. Regularly exercising faith can bring about similar growth spiritually. For instance, start by reading one chapter of the Bible during the first week. Then, the second week, increase to two chapters, and so on.

3. Embrace trials. 1 Peter reveals a shocking truth that adversity, addressed in God's power, creates greater faith. Just as a fire purifies precious metal, hardships strip away all but the pure core of faith.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant _____ hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the _____ of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through _____ unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more _____ than that of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet _____, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the _____ of your souls” (1 Peter 1:3-9).

4. Examine the testimonies of others. An individual's testimony is his own account of God's activity in his life. No one can ever deny, refute, or downplay another's testimony.

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith _____ exceedingly, and the _____ of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your _____ and _____ in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:” (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).

5. Pray. Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18. You get to know someone by talking to him. That's exactly what prayer is: your personal communication with God. Do you pray every day?

6. Practice Obedience. You will never grow in your faith if you consistently disobey what God tells you to do. Perfect faith is a by-product of obedience. Put yourself in a position to see God's best for your life, and your faith will soar.

Will you ask God to help you live by all six steps to increase you faith?

Today's Bible reading is 1 Samuel chapter 1.

LESSON 19

YOU CANNOT WIN SPIRITUAL WARFARE WITHOUT FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:...

As a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ, you have a mission to help Him liberate others who are still slaves to sin. The Bible tells you that the war is fierce, ongoing, and spiritual in nature. You know what Scripture says, but still, you wonder:

Is the world really so evil?

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with _____: for what fellowship [in common] hath _____ with unrighteousness [lawlessness]? and what communion [fellowship] hath _____ with _____?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

“And what concord hath _____ with Belial [Satan]? or what part hath he that _____ with an infidel [unbeliever]?” (2 Corinthians 6:15).

In every age, people have violated God's commands, and such lawlessness is quite evident still today. Men and women do not simply walk away from His standards; they embrace all types of other ideologies and cults. When fundamental thinking and attitudes are challenged and changed, values are challenged and changed, and in time, the values of subsequent generations are affected. Even childhood, once a time of innocence, has become tainted.

“And what agreement hath the _____ of _____ with idols? for ye are the temple of the _____ God; as God hath said, I will _____ in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye _____, saith the Lord, and touch not the _____ thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my _____ and _____, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).

Are my family and I in danger?

The whole body of Christ is under attack. With a purpose of drawing you away from your Savior, the Adversary (Satan) is determined to defeat believers. He tries to destroy your witness by causing you to doubt God's character, to worry instead of trusting divine promises, and to act hypocritically (saying one thing and doing another).

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your _____ the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same _____ are accomplished in [experienced by] your brethren that are in the _____” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

“For whatsoever is _____ of _____ overcometh the world: and this is the _____ that overcometh the world, even our _____” (1 John 5:4).

Not only has Jesus secured ultimate victory over Satan, but He has also provided you with what you require for success in your daily struggles.

Today's Bible reading is 1 Peter chapter 5.

LESSON 20

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

The Bible talks about spiritual warfare so that you might know your enemy and how to fight him. It compares the armor and weapons God has given you to outfitting a soldier: a helmet to protect your mind, a breastplate to cover your heart, shoes to help you stand firm, a belt to encircle you, the mighty sword of the Spirit, and the protective shield of faith.

“Finally, my brethren, be _____ in the Lord, and in the _____ of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the _____ of the devil. For we wrestle not against _____ and _____, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the _____ of this _____, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:10-12).

Roman soldiers carried large rectangular shields that covered their entire bodies. When facing an attack of flaming arrows, the warriors would stand shoulder to shoulder with neighboring shields touching. Then, as the enemy's arrows flew toward them, they would kneel in unison with their shields held above them, still in contact with the ones on either side; nothing could pierce that defense.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole _____ of God, that ye may be able to _____ in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with _____, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the _____ of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to _____ all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Ephesians 6:13-16).

This is a picture of how you are to fight when Satan sends flaming darts your way. They enter your life in the form of temptations, doubts, and anxieties—Satan's combatants shoot these silently and swiftly toward you in the hope of finding a vulnerable spot. When you maintain your shield of faith in an upright position, the attack fails. However, if you should lower it or fail to stand together with other believers as the body of Christ, the missiles penetrate.

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the _____ of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the _____, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery [hidden truth] of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds [chains]: that therein I may speak _____, as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:17-20).

Name three parts of the armor of God you can use to fight Satan. 1. _____;
2. _____; and 3. _____.

Your heavenly Father has provided all that you need to live on a battlefield. He has secured the victory through Jesus Christ, canceled sin's power over you, and given you armor to wear. Your part is to walk by faith, believing God moment by moment. Remember that your faith is your shield; keep it in good order.

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 6.

LESSON 21

STANDING FIRM IN FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

God knows that the spiritual battle rages fiercely and that His children are under attack. What does His Word tell you about Satan's schemes?

1. Satan's schemes are well-organized. Satan's plans have one purpose: to oppose the Lord. He attempts this purpose by hindering God's children and preventing others from joining God's family. The Greek word for "schemes" is *methodea*, from which we get our word "method." His tactics vary, but untruths are a common device because his native language is lying. In fact, Jesus calls Satan the "father of lies."

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the _____, and abode not in the truth, because there is no _____ in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a _____, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

2. Satan's attacks are personal. The Bible describes spiritual warfare as wrestling against evil forces, a picture of hand-to-hand combat. Satan tailors strategies to your weaknesses and seeks to discredit God in the eyes of the world.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against _____, against the rulers of the _____ of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

3. Satan's plans are backed by powerful forces. You are battling a large army—rulers, powers, dark forces, and the spiritual forces of wickedness. Fortunately, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is _____ in the flesh is not of _____: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have _____ them: because _____ is He that is in _____, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:3-4).

What are you to do against such an enemy? The Bible tells you to stand firm. This is not a passive stance, but an active one. It requires remaining alert, praying in the Spirit always, and wholeheartedly giving yourself to the Lord's work.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole _____ of God, that ye may be able to _____ in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13).

"Praying always with all prayer and _____ in the _____, and watching thereunto with all _____ and supplication for all saints;" (Ephesians 6:18).

The stronger your faith is, the easier it will be to survive spiritual battles. Soldier of God, are you holding firm? Explain how you are holding firm in the faith.

Today's Bible reading is 1 John chapter 4.

LESSON 22

HOW TO PASS ON YOUR FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

When you made the decision to follow Christ, you began the journey of a lifetime. The journey does not always have a clear and direct path, but it has a certain and clear end destination. It is your commitment to follow Christ that reflects to everyone around you exactly where you place your faith.

“My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My _____: For length of days, and long life, and _____, shall they add to thee. Let not _____ and _____ forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine _____: So shalt thou find _____ and good understanding in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:1-4).

“Trust in the LORD with _____ thine _____; and lean not unto thine _____ understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall _____ thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Although your circumstances might suggest you search for your own course of action, God's Word tells you that a committed heart results in the best pathway: “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

“Be not wise in thine own eyes: _____ the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be _____ to thy navel [body], and marrow to thy bones [strength]. _____ the LORD with thy substance [possessions], and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be _____ with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine” (Proverbs 3:7-10).

In order to pass on your faith, you must have faith. You must realize that when difficult times arise in your life, running to God, not from Him, results in victory. When you experience victory in Christ, your faith swells. As a result of your victories in Christ, no longer can you contain yourself when it comes to sharing your faith. You recognize just how much God has done for you and how much He intervenes in your impossible situations when you trust Him alone—and you cannot keep that to yourself.

“He [Jesus] saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, _____ thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou _____; all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, _____ my _____” (John 21:17).

Passing on your faith occurs when you demonstrate openly those truths that you clutch in your heart. To remain dedicated to the cause of Christ even when it is difficult shows that your faith is more than just a passing fancy or another religion—it shows it is truth worth imitating.

Jesus said, “Lovest thou Me? Feed my sheep.” What plans do you have today to feed His sheep?

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 21.

LESSON 23

WHEN FAITH IS USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE NAME OF GOD

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

There is no way to have a relationship with the invisible God without absolute faith in His existence. You must also believe that He is real and can only be seen with the spiritual eyes of faith. You must believe that He hears prayer and is the “rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

“O Thou that _____, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, Thou shalt _____ them away. Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts: we shall be _____ with the _____ of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple” (Psalm 65:2-4).

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see _____; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without _____ it is impossible to _____ Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that _____, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently _____ Him” (Hebrews 11:5-6).

“And being not _____ in _____, he [Abraham] considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was _____ in _____, giving glory to God; And being fully _____ that, what He had _____, He was able also to _____” (Romans 4:19-21).

You must believe that God will honor, with definite blessing, all Christians who come to Him in prayer.

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have _____ in _____. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not _____ in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall _____ to _____; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:22-23).

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, _____ that ye receive them, and ye shall _____ them. And when ye stand praying, _____, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may _____ your trespasses” (Mark 11:24-26).

Can you truly say that you are holding no grudges against anyone? _____ Explain:

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 11.

LESSON 24

WHEN FAITH IS USED IN CONNECTION WITH PRAYER

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

With faith, there must be no hesitation between belief and unbelief. To doubt is to question God's power; this is, then, limiting God, for it is to Him that you pray. Real faith thanks God for the thing asked for even before it is received.

“These things have I written unto you that _____ on the _____ of the Son of God; that ye may know ye have _____, and that ye may _____ on the _____ of the Son of God. And this is the _____ that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to _____, He heareth us: And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1 John 5:13-15).

You must understand the promises on which you base your prayers. Believing that the promises hold value, you then must step out and believe them in faith. Thus, you make real that which, at the moment, may be unseen, so far as your knowledge and vision are concerned. However, by faith you see it and claim it as a splendid reality.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him _____ of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not [without reproach]; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in _____, nothing wavering. For he that _____ is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive _____ of the Lord” (James 1:5-7).

You should know whether or not a particular promise is intended for you; then, you must believe that God means all He says in that promise. You must accept it as true and neither diminish nor discount it; God will not and cannot lie. You must act upon His promises—that is the difference between belief and faith. Faith backs up belief; it gives life, reality, and activity to it. Faith is acting upon what you believe, and faith counts every promise valid and of the highest value. No trial can shake faith; it is so absolute that it survives even the loss of its own pledge.

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that _____, promised before the _____ began; But hath in due times manifested His _____ through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the _____ of God our Saviour; To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the _____ and the Lord Jesus Christ our _____” (Titus 1:2-4).

Explain what you think would help you to have more faith that your prayers would be answered:

Explain how you know God's will for your life:

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 65.

LESSON 25

WHERE DOES FAITH COME FROM?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Faith is the combined work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

1. God the Father Gives Faith.

“For I say, through the grace _____ unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of _____” (Romans 12:3).

“For unto you it is _____ in the behalf of Christ, not only to _____ on Him, but also to suffer for His sake;” (Philippians 1:29).

“Now concerning _____, brethren, I would not have you ignorant” (1 Corinthians 12:1).

2. God the Son Perfects Faith.

“Looking unto Jesus the _____ and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him _____ the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the _____ of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

Matthew 14:30-31 says that Peter was able to walk on the water by faith as long as he kept his eyes upon Jesus Christ. His faith was in Christ and His power to make Peter able to walk upon the water, but when Peter saw the rough waves beating around him, he began to doubt and fear. As a result, Peter began to sink. The moment you take your eyes off Christ and look at the world around you with all of its difficulties and impossibilities, faith in Christ immediately gives way to fear.

3. God the Holy Spirit Administers Faith.

God the Holy Spirit is the executive of the Godhead.

“But the fruit of the _____ is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Faith, then, is the gift of God the Father, it is maintained and nourished by God the Son, and it is administered by the Holy Spirit.

4. There is Also a Human Side to Faith.

Though faith is the work of the Godhead, you are responsible if you do not have it. God desires to work faith in all of His creatures and will do so if they do not resist His Holy Spirit. You are responsible, therefore, not so much for a lack of faith, but for resisting the Spirit who will create faith in your heart if you will permit Him to do so.

“So then faith cometh by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God.” (Romans 10:17).

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 10.

LESSON 26

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF FAITH?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

1. You are saved through faith.

“For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: Not of _____, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The power of faith is not in itself but in the Lord Jesus Christ upon whom the faith rests. Salvation past, present, and future depends on faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot start out with faith in Christ and then change over to works, which is really taking your faith out of Christ and putting it in yourself. You are not only saved by faith, but you live in the present by faith.

2. You are justified by faith.

“Therefore being _____ by _____, we have _____ with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1).

3. You are adopted by faith.

“For ye are all the _____ of God by _____ in _____” (Galatians 3:26).

4. You are sanctified by faith.

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to _____, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive _____ of sins, and _____ among them which are _____ by _____ that is in Me” (Acts 26:18).

Indeed, your salvation from start to finish is dependent upon faith in Jesus Christ. Faith gives rest, peace, assurance, and joy. Faith carries with it a confident feeling of safety and security and of gratitude and joy. At first, there may be no conscious notice of this security and assurance, but as faith grows, the consciousness of this security and safety grows.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect _____ whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he _____ in Thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

“Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made _____ unto God. And the _____ of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your _____ and _____ through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

“For we which have believed do enter into _____, as He said, As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:3).

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in _____, believe also in _____ [Jesus]” (John 14:1).

“Whom having _____, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet _____, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” (1 Peter 1:8).

Today's Bible reading is 1 Peter chapter 1.

LESSON 27

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE DONE BY FAITH

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 119:11

Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through _____ subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained _____, stopped the mouths of lions. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of _____ were made _____, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.” (Hebrews 11:32-34).

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have _____, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be _____” (Matthew 21:21).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that _____ on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

Read Hebrews chapter 11, verses 32-40. Note the wonderful things done by the men of faith in the Bible; Jesus attributes a kind of all-power faith to them. With faith, the disciple will be able to do greater things than his master. Here is a mighty source of power for the believer. The great question for the Christian to answer is not “What can I do?” but rather, “How much can I believe?”

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, _____ are _____ to him that _____” (Mark 9:23).

Please tell us what you have learned from this faith study and how you will apply it to your life:

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 21.

LESSON 28

REVIEW (PART ONE)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 119:11

Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

Multiple Choice

Read each question carefully, then mark the correct answer. There is only one correct answer to each question. The questions are based on Scripture and the lessons in this book.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What one virtue did Christ recognize above all others?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Perseveranceb) Humilityc) Faith2. Upon what is faith based?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The Word of Godb) Your own ability to do thingsc) Jesus' death on the cross3. What is the Word of God?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Fictionb) Truthc) Myth4. How do we show our faith?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) By receiving for ourselves the object of our faithb) By leaping blindly into the darkc) By going to church where the Word of God is preached5. Where are all three elements of faith bound together?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) In the headb) In the emotionsc) In the heart6. What is the relationship between faith and works?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Faith has no relation to worksb) Faith and works go hand in handc) Works only has a small part to do with faith7. Where does our faith originate?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Only with God the Father | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><ol style="list-style-type: none">b) Only with Jesus Christc) In the combined work of the Godhead8. How can you come to know God?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Only through human intellectb) Here on earth, now, through faithc) Only when you get to heaven9. When do we use faith in Jesus?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Alwaysb) Only when times are difficultc) Only at the time of salvation10. What must we know about Christ?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) That He was a great teacherb) That He was a wonderful examplec) That He came to die for man's sins11. What must your response be to Christ?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) To learn about His claimsb) To receive Him as your own Saviorc) To try to live rightly12. What must we believe when we pray?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) That God hears prayerb) That God encourages usc) That God does not answer prayer13. What is the correct order?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Faith, fact, feelingb) Feeling, faith, factc) Fact, faith, feeling14. What can be accomplished by faith?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Very littleb) All thingsc) Things that are limited to our ability |
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LESSON 29

REVIEW (PART TWO)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 119:11

Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

True or False

Read each statement below carefully, then enter "true" or "false" in the blank. The statements are based on Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. In the exercise of faith, there is a real assurance concerning the things that we believe. _____
2. Since faith is something that we cannot touch or see, it has no sure foundation. _____
3. Faith loses all effect if that which we believe is not fully accepted as true. _____
4. Faith is often referred to as blind trust, and is therefore like a leap into the dark. _____
5. Faith in God doesn't demand trust beyond that which we see of Him around us. _____
6. Belief in the deity of Jesus Christ (that He is God) is essential to faith in Him. _____
7. To believe that Jesus actually existed is the same as receiving Him for yourself. _____
8. In order for prayer to be effective, it must be based on faith in God's promises. _____
9. It is necessary to know about the Word of God and to pray acceptably. _____
10. Faith is not a virtue that we have from birth but a gift from God according to our need. _____
11. We as Christians are responsible for having faith. _____
12. Only a faith built on the foundation of Jesus Christ can withstand the winds of adversity. _____
13. The heavenly Father always has a purpose for testing a believer's faith. _____
14. Giving up means abandoning God's help and relying on your own puny strength. _____
15. God will sometimes challenge you beyond what you are able to handle. _____
16. Peter started sinking when he became distracted by the men in the boat. _____



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