Focus on Your Faith in God

**Experience growth in your faith**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 17:1-20, Psalms 25:14,

* *Study the three disciples who went with Jesus up the mountain. What affected their faith in this experience as well as what occurred after they came down the mountain? Journalize your thoughts.*

**Tuesday**

Read Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 4:7, Romans 10:17, Galatians 5:22-23

* *God is the only source faith. You can’t work up faith from yourself. To get faith in God you have to receive it from God. Study these scriptures and decide what you need to do in order to get more faith and strengthen the faith you have.*

**Wednesday**

Read Proverbs 27:23-27, 1 Peter 1:7, Hebrews 11:6

* *If anything is going to get stronger, it requires attention and effort. Journalize the condition of your current faith in God. Your faith in God is of greater worth than gold.*

**Thursday**

Read Hebrews 11

* *Meditate on this faith chapter.*

**Friday**

Read Exodus 14, Matthew 17:20

* *Using Moses’ example of faith in God, how do you need to approach your impossible and difficult situation?*

**How do I transition from small faith to strong faith?**

Get a deeper curiosity and interest in God

Stop trusting in yourself and let go of personal ambitions

Give God the chance to talk to you most every day

Get really close to Jesus and stay there

Let God take you with Him so He leads your thoughts and activities

Hold onto what you learn from Him

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Matthew 17:[1](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-1.htm)After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Hebrews 7:25  Therefore He is able to save completely those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings

[2](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-2.htm)There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

[Psalm 25:14](https://biblehub.com/psalms/25-14.htm)  The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.

[3](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-3.htm)Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared before them, talking with Jesus. [4](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-4.htm)Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, I will put up three shelters: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

[5](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-5.htm)While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!” [6](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-6.htm)When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown in terror.

[7](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-7.htm)Then Jesus came over and touched them. “Get up,” He said. “Do not be afraid.” [8](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-8.htm)And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

[9](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-9.htm)As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Do not tell anyone about this vision until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

[10](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-10.htm)The disciples asked Him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

[11](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-11.htm)Jesus replied, “Elijah does indeed come, and he will restore all things. [12](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-12.htm)But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him whatever they wished. In the same way, the Son of Man will suffer at their hands.”

[13](https://biblehub.com/matthew/17-13.htm)Then the disciples understood that He was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

**14**When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him.**15**“Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. **16**I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”

**17**“You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” **18**Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.

**19**Then the disciples (9 of them) came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

**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.”

Little faith - few, little, small (as in puny or lifeless), slight (skinny), little intensity, without much effort (not concentrated or focused on), brief (intermittent), short in time, puny in duration and value, low in quality, few occurrences of faith, trusting to little, describes someone who is dull to hear the Lord’s voice or who is disinterested in walking intimately with Him.

Brief faith, intermittent - I have faith and exhibit it at times and other times I don’t have it at all.  When I do exhibit faith it is only for short periods of time…puny in duration…there only few occurrences of it.

Why would this happen?  Because it is of little value to me (even though the Bible says our faith is of greater worth than gold).  It shows that I have found other things that consume my attention and desire.  My faith is small and of low quality because other things are larger and more important to me in my life.

To say that I place little interest in my faith in God is to say I place little value on God’s word and His voice (faith comes through hearing the word of God & man will not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God), and at a deeper level I am simply disinterest in intimate relationship with Him.  And as a result I have little trust in God.

The way I know this is when I consider something important and valuable, will exert effort towards it.  If my faith in God is of moderate importance, it receives minor focus, little intensity and not much concentration.

This results little faith.

The disciples that tried to cast out the demon but this happened to be in one of their long periods of time where they were disinterested in their faith in God and God’s word and they were unable to cast out the demon.

But where were the disciples who were interested in their faith? They were up the mountain with Jesus, as close as they could be to Him and they just happened to have a powerful, revelatory experience with Him, which as a result would have further strengthened their faith.

**You get what you put into something**

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This all begs the question: What is faith and where does faith come from and how do I get faith and how can my faith in God grow?

What is faith? - simply it is my connection to God.  That is why it is of greater worth than gold!  It is a spiritual extension cord hanging from you, that as you will plugs right into God.

Where does faith come from and how do I get it?

Faith comes from God

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

Romans 12:3 NIV

“For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?”

1 Corinthians 4:7 NIV

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

Romans 10:17 NIV

Once we first heard God’s voice it sparked our faith into existence

Galatians 5:[22](https://biblehub.com/galatians/5-22.htm) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](https://biblehub.com/galatians/5-23.htm)gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit…meaning again that it comes from God.

How can my faith in God grow?

Proverbs 27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,

    give careful attention to your herds;

Hebrews 2:1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

1 Peter 1:7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Why is your faith in God so valuable?  Because is produces salvation. Furthermore, it produces spiritual and physical blessing that just keep on giving!

Hebrews 11:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Proverbs 27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,

    give careful attention to your herds;

24 for riches do not endure forever,

    and a crown is not secure for all generations.

25 When the hay is removed and new growth appears

    and the grass from the hills is gathered in,

26 the lambs will provide you with clothing,

    and the goats with the price of a field.

27 You will have plenty of goats’ milk to feed your family and to nourish your female servants.

How can you grow your faith in God?  By tending to it, nurturing your relationship with God, listening carefully to His voice and doing what He tells you to do.

Matthew 17:20 He replied, “Because you have (of) 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.”

Have - to hold, to possess,

Translated - become, conceive, enjoy, experience, keep, maintain, own, receive, remember, seize,

In other words if you have received small faith in God and you have held onto it, your faith will have noticeable results.

The example which makes this point memorable is that of a **seed**.  The only way for a seed to germinate is for it to be ‘held onto’ by the ground.  When God tells you something you have to receive it and hold onto it!

A promise…don’t forget it, don’t disbelieve it, don’t be so negative…receive it and hold onto it.

A directive - don’t forget it, don’t overlook it, don’t neglect it…receive it and do it

An offer (like peace or joy) - receive it, meditate on it, believe it, digest it

So the difference between little faith and small faith is that one sees little value in it while small faith sees value in their connection to God and latches onto what God says.

The person who grabs what God says and holds onto it, Jesus promises nothing will be impossible for them, they will move mountains.

The outcome of their lives are totally different, one lives with consistent miracles while the other lives languishing in their day to day lives.

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