Faith When I Don't Have the Answers

Key Scriptures

1. Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) — Trusting God

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

2. Daniel 6:10 (KJV) — Remaining Faithful in Prayer

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

3. 1 Samuel 10:8 — Instructions to Wait

Samuel instructs Saul to wait seven days at Gilgal until he arrives to offer sacrifices and provide further direction.

4. 1 Samuel 13:5–8 — Saul Becomes Impatient

The Philistines gather, Israel's soldiers become afraid and scatter, and Saul grows impatient while waiting for Samuel.

5. 1 Samuel 13:11–14 — The Consequences of Disobedience

Saul takes matters into his own hands and offers the sacrifice. Samuel confronts him for disobeying God's command, and Saul faces serious consequences for his kingdom.

6. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV) — Gratitude

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

7. Galatians 6:9 (KJV) — Remaining Faithful

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Opening Question

What does faith look like day to day when:

- You've prayed, fasted, and sought God, but nothing has changed?
- God seems silent, and you don't have direction?
- You don't understand what God is doing?
- You're tempted to take matters into your own hands?

Opening Prayer

Opening Illustration: Patunya — The Prayer She Refused to Give Up

Key Point: Her commitment to God was established before the crisis came.

Daniel Chapter 6 — Faithfulness Under Pressure

- Daniel served with excellence and integrity.
- His enemies couldn't find fault in his work, so they targeted his prayer life.
- King Darius signs a decree prohibiting prayer to anyone other than the king for 30 days.
- Daniel knows the consequences but continues praying three times daily.
- **"As he did aforetime" — just as he had done before.**
- Daniel's circumstances changed, but his commitment to God did not.
- Daniel prayed and gave thanks even when his life was threatened.

Key Point: Keep doing what you know to do, remain faithful and keep your commitment to God.

Saul — When Waiting Becomes Difficult

1 Samuel 10:8; 13:5–14

- Samuel instructs Saul to wait seven days.
- The Philistines gather, soldiers scatter, and fear increases.
- Samuel doesn't arrive when Saul expects.
- Saul becomes impatient and offers the sacrifice himself.
- Samuel arrives and confronts Saul.
- Saul's disobedience brings serious consequences to his kingdom.

Key Lessons:

- Leadership and responsibility do not remove our need to obey God.
- Pressure can cause us to move ahead of God's instructions.
- Fear and impatience can lead to costly decisions.
- What God desires to establish for the future can be affected by our disobedience today.

Key Point: Learn to wait on God no matter what the circumstances look like.

Three Practical Ways to Maintain Your Faith

1. Protect Your Mind and Guard What You Believe

- Guard your thoughts against doubt, fear, and the enemy's lies.
- God's silence does not mean He has abandoned or forgotten you.
- God is aware of your circumstances and remains in control.
- Some seasons of silence may be opportunities for testing and spiritual growth.

Illustration: The Teacher During a Test

- The teacher instructs and prepares students before the test.
- During the examination, the teacher becomes quiet.
- The test reveals what students have learned and retained.
- Spiritual testing can reveal what has taken root in our hearts.

Questions to Consider:

- When tested, does God's Word or our flesh come out?
- Do we respond with prayer or panic?
- Do we demonstrate patience or frustration?
- Do we display the fruit of the Spirit or the works of the flesh?

Daily Application:

- Don't make permanent decisions based on temporary emotions.
- Refuse to believe that God has forgotten you.
- Don't force doors open because you're tired of waiting.
- Continue praying and seeking godly wisdom.
- Stand on God's Word rather than your circumstances.
- Wait when God has instructed you to wait.

Key Point: Sometimes faith means standing still when everything inside you wants to run ahead.

2. Maintain an Attitude of Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:18

- Give thanks in every circumstance, even when the answer is delayed.
- Gratitude reminds us of God's goodness and faithfulness.
- Be careful what you speak over your situation.
- Don't allow discouragement and complaining to dominate your words.
- Speak God's Word, promises, and faithfulness.
- Daniel continued giving thanks even while facing the lions' den.

Daily Application:

- Begin each morning thanking God.
- Identify three things you're grateful for.
- Memorize a go-to Scripture and speak it when negative thoughts arise.
- Replace complaining with prayer and constructive action.
- Thank God for His presence before circumstances change.

Key Point: Your situation may not have changed, but gratitude can change how you walk through it.

3. Keep Doing What You Know Is Right

Galatians 6:9

- You've prayed, fasted, sought counsel, and still have no answer.
- Don't become so focused on what God hasn't revealed that you neglect what He has already instructed.
- Continue loving, forgiving, praying, serving, and obeying.
- Maintain integrity and excellence in your responsibilities.
- Daniel remained faithful to God and his responsibilities despite opposition.

Daily Application:

- Maintain your daily prayer life.
- Continue reading and applying Scripture.
- Keep worshiping, serving, and loving others.
- Seek wise counsel rather than making emotional decisions.
- Take the next right step without needing to see the entire path.
- Remain faithful in small things while waiting for clarity in bigger things.

Key Point: Don't allow what you don't know to stop you from doing what you do know.

Closing Reflection

Ask Yourself:

1. Am I allowing God's silence to weaken my faith?
2. Am I waiting on God or trying to force an answer?
3. What comes out of me when my faith is tested?
4. Am I remaining consistent in prayer and obedience?
5. What can I begin doing differently tomorrow?

Final Encouragement

Faith is not having all the answers. Faith is trusting the One who does.

Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep obeying. Keep giving thanks.

Closing Prayer