

Simple Faith

As found in Smith's Bible Dictionary:

* Faith is the assent of the mind to the truth of God's revealed will.

There are two kinds of faith:

1. Historical, which asserts to the statements about the life and works of Jesus and the apostles, as historical truths.

2. Evangelical, or saving faith, is an assent to the truth of revelation, and an entire trust and confidence in God's character, and Christ's teachings, with unreserved surrender of your will. Jesus Christ is then received into the heart as the Savior, Prophet, Priest, and King, to be loved and obeyed. This is instrumentally a means of salvation, and essential grace, and mainspring of Christian life. "Steadiness, trust, faith."

In Hebrews 11:1 states:

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

Faith in the sense is always speaking in the present tense, so faith is ongoing and never stops. Our faith is ever-growing and increasing as we spend time with Jesus. (Praying, talking with God and communing with Him on a daily basis).

Spend time reading your bible, meditating on God's word and asking God for what you need to help your faith grow and flourish.

You need to trust God with your very life. Proverbs 3:5-6 says;

5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Question, do you always trust yourself, do you always know what direction you are heading, or do you know what the day will bring? If you say, no - then put it in the hands of the one who does, your All-knowing, All seeing, All Mighty Father. Just listen to what the Father says about you:

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (Hope in your latter end).

God is closer to you than you know. God waits for us to let Him in so He shows you how wonderful things can be even when you go through trials and tribulations. God listens to you no matter what. He hears your sighs, your cries and your heart's desire. He wants to help you and give you his unconditional love. He is concerned with your future and will guide you safely home. Just trust Him and depend on Him. You need to try Him for yourself.

To help you on your journey in building your faith in God, develop these traits.

- Pray continuously- 1 Thess. 5:17, Eph.6:18
Prayers is speaking to God directly and it is not always formal- reverence God in your heart.
- Read and meditate on His word, it opens your world to a great and powerful God. Job 1:8, Psalm 119:15,119:48
- Learn scriptures that you can paraphrase or quote. Scriptures will help you to rely on God and not yourself. Also scriptures will develop and strengthen your inner man (spiritual man), so you can be guided by the Holy Spirit & not ruled by your natural tendency (fleshly desires). Gal 5:1-26

Faith and trust in God is essential to living a Christian life but not necessarily hard to achieve or attain. In the bible it states:

- Matt. 13:31-32 The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. 32: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches.
- Matt. 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say unto the mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

- Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, if you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

The mustard seed is the smallest of all plant kingdoms, but yet the Father is saying to you that this is all it takes to begin your life of faith in Him. God makes it so easy for us to rely and depend on Him. Your faith can start out so small just by reading a few scriptures and asking God to grow your faith and soon your faith will grow and blossom like that mustard seed. Just taste and see what a "Great and Wonderful God" we have. (Psalm 34:8) God is waiting on "you."

Jesus wants to be one with us as He and the Father are one. (John 17:21). If you will read chapters 14, 15, 16 of John and 17, his last words were spoken about us. Jesus spoke about the promises of the Holy Spirit who would fill us with his presence and help us understand our Christian life. The Holy Spirit empowers us to mature in Christ, understand the word of God, increase our faith, and expand our capacity to love others and a host of benefits. Jesus talks about Him being the true vine and how He has chosen us first before we have even thought about Him at all because we are always busy living our own lives that at times do not include Him. "O" just taste and see how good Jesus is. Here are some scriptures on faith that will help you along your way, Hab.2:4, Matt. 8:10, Matt.9:2, Mark 5:34, Mark 10:52, Mark 11:22-24, Luke 17:5. There are many more scriptures on faith but as you grow in this journey, you will begin to seek out scriptures. This journey of faith that you have started will continue your whole life until Christ returns.

You should develop habits that will enhance your faith walk with God. As you read scriptures; study and meditate on them. Pray continuously about all things, even if you might think they are small. God loves to hear from you personally. Worship God and praise Him for all things even the not so good things. There is a scripture in the bible that states all things work for the good of them who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose (Roman 8:28). Always submit to the Holy Spirit and his guidance daily. It can be as simple as saying, God I submit this day to you or God you are in charge today. Be dependent on God for everything for He only wants the best for you in this life and trust that He knows. There are other qualities I can speak on that will help but we are all different and each person's journey will not be the same. I pray that this will get you started in your journey of faith with our Lord and Savior. Be Blessed!

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