

Your Faith in Christ
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We've been talking about faith, and it's what you need to have every day, and in every area of your life. Mark 11:22 says, "*Have faith in God.*" And having faith means you're looking to God, you're depending on Him, you're trusting Him. You're to have faith for your own personal life, for your relationship with God, for your family, your work, and your trials, for your finances, your health, your ministry in the church, for how you use your time today, and for the rest of your life.

Having faith means you're walking with God, the most important person in your life. It means you have a relationship with God, that you're connected to God, that you're trusting God, and it results in you being spiritually strengthened and encouraged by God, and being filled up with His love, joy, and peace. Rom. 15:13

Now when you think about the Bible and faith, Heb. 11 comes to mind, for it focuses on people of God who had faith in God. You see that Abel had faith, Enoch had faith, Noah had faith, Abraham had faith, Sarah had faith, Isaac had faith, Jacob had faith, and Moses had faith, and many more. They all had faith, they all believed God could lead them, use them, bless them, and strengthen them, and by faith, they obeyed God. Heb. 12:1-3

Even Jesus had faith - and He had perfect faith. He trusted in His Father, He relied on His Father, He depended on Him all the time and in every situation. Luke 5:16 - And Paul had faith too. The things he did for God, and all the trials he went through - and it was by faith in God that he lived his life. And Paul was always concerned about the faith of the believers. Col. 1:4, 1 Thess. 3:1-7

Now the last two times we looked at Matthew, Luke, and John, and what Jesus had to say about faith. And Jesus talked a lot about faith, and it's obvious that one of His highest priorities was for His disciples to have faith. Many times, Jesus would say to them, "*O, you of little faith*", and I wouldn't doubt that He says that to us too. "*O, you of little faith.*" There is no doubt that one of His highest priorities with you is helping you grow in your faith.

John 7:37-39. Jesus is crying out to the crowds, and what He says is very instructional. First, He says, "*If anyone is thirsty.*" And Jesus is saying that "*anyone*" can come to Him. Jesus does not discriminate. Jesus doesn't care about your age, race, color, class, or sex - Jesus is saying that He wants to satisfy the spiritual needs of anyone. John 3:16

Second, Jesus says, if anyone is “*thirsty*.” You all know what thirsty means – you sense in your body, your mouth, that you need liquids - you’re physically thirsty. But here we’re talking about being spiritually thirsty. This means that you’ve come to the point in your life where you realize that the things of the world don’t satisfy, the things of the flesh don’t satisfy, that relationships don’t satisfy, and you’re thirsty for Jesus Christ and for what only He can give you. Psalm 63:1

Third, Jesus says you need to come to Him. Matt. 11:28, Jn. 6:35-37. Jesus tells us to come to Him because He knows you can’t meet your spiritual needs, and no one else can meet them. He knows that only He can meet your spiritual needs. And if you’re coming to Jesus then you’ve realized that He’s the answer, that only He can meet your spiritual needs, that only God can satisfy your spiritual thirst.

I think of how a physically thirsty person doesn’t just get a glass of water and look at it. He drinks it, and the liquid goes into his body and his thirst is quenched, he’s physically satisfied. So too, the spiritually thirsty person doesn’t just come to Jesus, He partakes of Jesus in a spiritual sense, He receives what Jesus is giving Him. Ps. 34:8, John 6:51-56 - What we’re saying is that only Jesus can spiritually satisfy you, only He knows how to meet your spiritual needs, and only He can meet your spiritual needs. And when I say spiritual needs, I mean your need for Jesus to be your Lord, Savior, and friend, and your need for forgiveness, love, joy, peace, grace, and power.

I think of what Paul said, “*To live is Christ*.” A person who is spiritually thirsty comes to Jesus for He knows that the only way he can really and truly live is to come to Him. John 7:38. The person who comes to Jesus and is spiritually drinking is believing that Jesus will satisfy him, will give him eternal life, will meet his real needs.

So coming to Jesus and spiritually drinking means you’re wanting Jesus to meet your needs, you’re expecting Him to meet your needs, and you’re believing that He will. And coming to Jesus and believing in Him is a personal thing - no one else can do it for you, no one else can make you do it. It’s you going to Jesus and believing, and trusting Him to meet your needs.

John 7:38b. This phrase describes the life God wants to give you. And that it says, “*river of living waters*” gives us the idea that it’s clean water, fresh water, good water, and an unending source of living water - it’s always running, it’s always flowing. John 4:10-14. This says the same thing, that Jesus wants to give you living water, and the one who has this living water is truly experiencing eternal life. Psalm 36:5-10

John 9. This is about a person who'd been blind from birth. And Jesus heals this man, and he can now see. But most importantly Jesus forgives this man's sins, He heals His spiritual blindness. Jn. 9:35-41. This blind man had faith, he believed in Jesus, he believed that Jesus physically healed him, and he believed that Jesus could spiritually heal him, and Jesus did.

John 11:25-27. Jesus talks to Martha about the resurrection. And Martha believes she is talking to Christ, the Messiah, One who's God. And she believes that He's the resurrection, that He has power over death, and that He's the life, and that He can give her life. So Martha is a believer, she's saved from her sins, and from death and hell, and she's given eternal life.

John 12:44-48. Here are the main points from these verses:

1. If you believe in Jesus then you also believe in God the Father. That's because Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of the Father. And that's because the Son and the Father always work together - you can't separate Them. They are two members of the Trinity. John 5:17
2. That it says you see the Father if you see the Son means Jesus is God in the flesh. This means they're perfectly united, that they're one in purpose, character, and godliness.
3. And everyone who believes in Jesus does not remain in darkness, does not remain a sinner, but gets saved, is forgiven, is a child of the light.
4. And everyone who does not believe in Jesus will be judged on the last day.

John 14:1-3. As people we get troubled, we get sad, and we get discouraged. The answer to this problem is to believe in Jesus, to trust in Him, for He gives us peace, He gives us joy, and He gives us hope. In vss. 2-3, Jesus' focuses on the future, for He says He's making a home for us in heaven. Having this hope helps us not be troubled in the present for we see that God gives us a wonderful future. And faith in God gives us this hope. Romans 8:18-25, 28-29

John 14:11-14. This is a great section of verses on faith and prayer.

- First, we're to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is God and man, and that He and the Father have this close relationship and, in fact, are perfectly united, and the Son is doing exactly what the Father wants Him to do. John 12:49-50
- Second, we are to believe that we're to do the works of God, the kind of works Jesus was doing, and even greater works than what He did. And these greater works refer, I believe, to greater works quantitatively. You see, Jesus reached the entire country of Israel, but as Jesus' followers, as His disciples, we're to reach the entire world.
- Matt. 24:14, 28:19-20. And of course, we know from history that the church has been preaching the gospel and making disciples for the past 2000 years.

3rd, Jesus is encouraging us to pray, to have believing prayer. He knows that to do the works He wants us to do, we need to pray - we need to believe that God through His Spirit can do His works through us. We can't do His works on our own power, it must be the Spirit who is working through us. John 14:16-17. And Jesus encourages us to pray, not selfishly, not for what we want, but for whatever God wants to do through us, that which is according to His name, His will, His purposes.

- 4th, we see that God's ultimate purpose is that He and His Son are glorified. Jn. 17:1-4. As Christians, we must know that the works we do are to result in God being glorified.

Matthew 6:24-34. This is an important passage about life and living for the Lord.

What do we learn from these verses?

1. We shouldn't worry, we shouldn't be anxious about the little things, the basic things of life, the physical things of life, like food, shelter, clothing, and finances. The world worries, but we're God's children, and we shouldn't be like the world. And we need to learn to not worry, for it doesn't do any good to worry.

2. We need to have faith in God, we need to believe that He'll meet our needs. Matt. 6. Now a mature Christian has learned to trust God for the little things of life. And if we're worrying, if we're anxious, then our faith is weak, we have little faith. This doesn't mean we shouldn't work, that we shouldn't provide for our needs, but we shouldn't worry - we should work but we should never worry. Luke 12:15

3. We need to seek first the kingdom of God. We need to focus, not on our basic needs, not on the little things of life. We need to focus on the big things, on spiritual things, on the kingdom of God, on the souls of men and women. We need to help build the church - we need to love people, to use our gifts and abilities, to do our part in making disciples. True genuine faith means we're believing that God will take care of our needs, and we're believing that He'll use us to fulfill His purposes, to help build God's kingdom. Political

One final thing - how do you grow in your faith?

1. Read God's word. Rom. 10:17 - *"Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ."*

2. Learn about God, study His character. Know that God is good, powerful, wise, holy, and loving. Psalm 9:10 - *"Those who know Thy name will put their trust in Thee."*

3. Be around godly people, learn from their example of faith. 1 Tim. 4:12

4. Be desiring the glory of God. John 14:13

5. Be doing God's work, for as you do His work, then you will see that you need Him, and you will trust Him for His leading, and for His help and strength. Verse

6. Ask God to give you faith. Mark 9:24 - *"I do believe, help me in my unbelief."*