

# Understanding Faith

Heb. 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on earth?

Lk. 18:8

Lord, increase our faith!

Lk. 18:8

I believe, help my unbelief.

Mk. 9:24

Faith is weak when we...

## **1. Focus on the “wind” (or circumstances)**

But when he saw the wind he was afraid. Matt. 14:30

Fear -

- A night of rowing – exhausted
- A ghost on the water? – unknown

- A storm that grabbed his focus –  
“I’m drowning!”

Peter had enough faith ---

- to ask if he could walk on water.
- to get out of the boat.
- to walk on water – But then.. .

Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him,  
“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” Matt. 14:31

## **2. Focus on the wisdom of the world.**

... That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of  
God. 1 Cor. 2:5

Wisdom of men

- . Source is man’s ideas or opinions
- . Source is what is popular or acceptable
- . Source is what sounds comfortable.

Hinduism

“Man is god - in a temporary state of self-forgetfulness.”

## **3. Focus on my will**

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting... James 1:6

... a double minded man, unstable in all his ways. (8)

No longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by  
every wind of doctrine by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.  
Eph. 4:14

Purify your hearts,  
you double-minded.  
James 4:8

Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, be taken up and thrown into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what He says will come to pass it will be done for him.  
Mk:11:23

And when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the way...  
Acts 19:9

Take care, brothers, lest there in any of you an evil unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. Heb. 3:12

But exhort one another every day; as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (13)

Life is the story of God. He invites us into His story. Sin deceives us that life is all about me –  
that I am the star.  
Louie Giglio

Faith is strong when we...

### **1. Focus on His work for us and in us.**

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.,  
Heb. 12:2

The Founder...  
Author  
Captain  
Leader  
Pioneer

## Chief Example

The Perfector...

Finisher

Complete confidence in His Father

Enables us to be strong in our faith

I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. 2 Tim. 1:12

Women's 10,000 meter race

Almaz Ayana –Ethiopian broke world record by 14 sec.

“My doping is JESUS.”

Simone Manuel – Olympic record in 100 meter freestyle

1st African American woman to win a medal in an individual swimming event.

“All I can say is – All glory to God!”

Katie Ledecky – won the 800 meter freestyle by 11 sec.

“My faith in Christ is part of who I am.”

David Boudia – diver – gold medal.

“Our identity is in Jesus Christ.”

## **2.Focus on His Word**

So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ.

Rom. 10:17

- Not by mystical experience
- Not by speculation
- Not by sincerity
- Not by trying harder

“Satan continues his efforts to make sin less offensive, heaven less appealing, hell less horrific and the Gospel less urgent.”

John MacArthur Jr.

“An open mind, like an open mouth does have a purpose – to close upon something solid and good. Otherwise, it could become like a city sewer, rejecting nothing.”

G.K.Chesterton

### **3. Focus on His wisdom.**

... That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Cor. 2:5

- The power to save.
- The power to defeat Satan.
- The power to change lives.
- The power to be victorious.

... demonstration of the Spirit and of power. (4)

Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God that we might understand the things freely given to us by God. (12)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure,  
making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart.

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Ps. 19:7-8