



Living by Faith

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Purpose of faith

- Faith needs hope
- Substance/evidence of faith
- Purpose of Faith:
 - **We live by it**
 - To use what God has given us in serving
 - To please God
 - Grow your personal trust and confidence in Christ

Problems of faith

- Flesh
- Fear
- Facts
- Failed belief
- Fickle patience

Promises of faith: Holding Onto God's Promises Everyday

- God will fulfill His promises because He cannot lie!
- We get what God promised by faith!
- God promises to give you rest.
- God promises to strengthen you.
- God promises to answer your prayers.
- God promises to be with you.
- God promises to protect you.
- God promises to take care of all your needs.
- God promises to work everything out for your good.
- God promises freedom from sin.
- God promises that nothing can separate you from Him.
- God promises you everlasting life.

Too many Christians attempt to accept the Christian life without understanding and receiving the necessary requirements to become a true Believer. One of those requirements is Faith!

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 Amplified Bible

1 "Every commandment that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, so that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore [to give] to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember [always] all the ways which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart (mind), whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 He humbled you and allowed you to be hungry and fed you with manna, [a substance] which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, so that He might make you understand [by personal experience] that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 8:5-10 Amplified Bible

5 Therefore, know in your heart (be fully cognizant) that the Lord your God disciplines and instructs you just as a man disciplines and instructs his son. 6 Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk [that is, to live each and every day] in His ways and fear [and worship] Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect]. 7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; 8 a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; 9 a land where you will eat bread without shortage, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

Few things are more comforting than knowing and believing that God is at work in our lives. This type of comfort is the result of a confidence *not in our own abilities, but in a God whose promises never fail*. What He says will happen, He will accomplish. But this type of confidence comes only by faith. And faith comes by hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17). But even in our hearing and reading of God's Word, we can wonder at times, "Is this promise really for me?" or "Will God stay true to His promises?"

Living by faith (trust in God) is our firm foundation

Hebrews 11:1-3 The Message

1-2 The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. 3 By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see.

2 Corinthians 5:7 New International Version

For we live by faith, not by sight.

Deuteronomy 8:3 Amplified Bible

man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

Why live by faith? Because God cares

Hebrews 11:6 The Message

It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.

Hebrews 6:18 Easy-to-Read Version

These **two things cannot change: God cannot lie** when he says something, and he **cannot lie** when he makes an oath. **So these two things are a great help to us who have come to God for safety.** They encourage us to hold on to the hope that is ours.

Living by faith requires growth

Joshua 21:45 New Living Translation

Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.

- The same is applicable to us as we live in faith, knowledge and obedience.
- Faith requires that we grow in knowledge and obedience.

2 Corinthians 5:7 Amplified Bible

for we walk by faith, not by sight [**living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises**]—

Galatians 5:16 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

But I say, **walk and live [habitually]** in the [Holy] Spirit [**responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit**]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).

Romans 4:13, 16-17 Easy-to-Read Version

13 Abraham and his descendants received the promise that they would get the whole world. **But Abraham did not receive that promise because he followed the law. He received that promise because he was right with God through his faith.** 16 **So people get what God promised by having faith.** This happens so that the promise can be a free gift. And if the promise is a free gift, then all of Abraham's people will get that promise. The promise is not just for those who live under the Law of Moses. It is for all who live with faith as Abraham did. He is the father of us all. 17 As the Scriptures say, "I have made you a father of many nations." This is true before God, the one

Abraham believed—the God who gives life to the dead and speaks of things that don't yet exist as if they are real.

Living by faith calls us to keep hoping

Romans 4:16-18 New Living Translation

16 So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. 17 That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because **Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.** 18 **Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping**—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

James 2:21-24, 26 Amplified Bible

21 Was our father Abraham not [shown to be] justified by works [of obedience which expressed his faith] when he offered Isaac his son on the altar [as a sacrifice to God]? 22 **You see that [his] faith was working together with his works, and as a result of the works, his faith was completed [reaching its maturity when he expressed his faith through obedience].** 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and this [faith] was credited to him [by God] as righteousness and as conformity to His will," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man (believer) is justified by works and not by faith alone [that is, **by acts of obedience a born-again believer reveals his faith**]. 26 For just as the [human] body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works [of obedience] is also dead.**

Faith reaches maturity through obedience

- Living by faith we make a choice to live habitually in the Holy Spirit (led by the Spirit), who is our guarantee (or assurance) of God's promises.
- Living by faith we make a choice to walk in obedience (dying to self, seeking God's power to crucify the flesh and escape disobedience).
- This is made possible by habitually being in the Word of God and (through prayer, worship, and meditating on the Word) pursuing the presence and supernatural power of God.

Living by faith requires courage

- Living by faith is choosing to give God your "stuff" (so that through recognizing His mercy and love you allow Him to lead you and work in you concerning those things that want to keep you bound and keep you from living freely by faith).
- Faith doesn't give you the thing you ask for; it gives you the thing you need, so you can get what you're asking for. Faith is dealing with you where you're hurting.

How do you practically live by faith? 10 Examples

1. Read the Word for 24 minutes everyday
 2. Spend time with God in worship and prayer
 3. Participate in church and review the word of the house (e.g., when there is an assignment or a question of reflection, take time to do it; watch again)
 4. Incorporate scripture verses into your everyday (e.g., learn scriptures to counter thoughts of fear and to encourage/equip/empower you)
 5. Learn and review God's promises (Pastor said we should all be able to recite at least 10 promises of God)
 6. Write and speak confessions over areas/situations in your life that are based in the Word (statements of faith affirming God's ability and promises)
 7. Ask God in prayer what His will is concerning situations in your life, and/or seek godly counsel
 8. If you are "stepping out in faith," seek God in prayer and/or godly counsel regarding what you are moving towards in faith
 9. Discuss the Word with your family/friends; fellowship with believers
 10. Seek and follow the promptings of Holy Spirit
- Essentially, the foundational desire is to be led by the Spirit of God; therefore, you do the work of believing (feeding yourself enough Word and time with the Lord to be sensitive to His leading).

Living by faith: Holding Onto God's Promises Everyday

- I thank You that in my times of need, You will fight for me (Ex 14:14).
- Thank You that Your mercies are new each morning (Lam 3:21-23).
- I ask that You will renew my strength and help me each day (Is 40:31, Is 41:13).
- No matter what I go through, I know that You are with me, and Your love for me will never be shaken (Is 43:2, Is 54:10).
- I praise You that no weapon forged against me will prevail (Is 54:17).
- You will never forsake me, and You have good plans for my life (Deut 31:8, Jer 29:1 1).
- Thank You that You hear my prayer, and for being my light and salvation (Psalm 27:1, 34:17).
- I have received Your grace and peace, and Your love abounds forever! (Philemon 1:3, Psalm 86:5)
- Thank You that Your joy is my strength (Nehemiah 8:10).
- Amen!