

LIVING BY FAITH

IS TRUSTING GOD



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Scripture quotations taken from The World English Bible

Live By Faith

This book is about faith in God, so before I go any further, I must remind you, or if you are new to the idea of faith, thus I need to explain to you how the Bible describes faith. An important subject for any Christian to understand, and if you apply it to your life, you will experience a major change in how you live. This will apply to every section of your life. From your marriage, to your work, to your finances, to your family, and your relationship with God.

It will be impossible to say you have faith in God if there is no change in the way you live your life. If there is one change in your life to cause family and friends to wonder what you are doing, showing your faith in God will make a massive impact on your relationship with everyone around you. When you first start out having faith in God, it will be difficult, but as time goes by and you grow more and more in faith. The journey will gradually become easier.

The only real promise I can make for you is that it will not be any simple thing to do. Altering your lifestyle is bound to bring opposition from people who know you. To be a Christian in this present day and age is to go against what most of the world believe. Look around and observe the hatred where is exposing itself on social media, and on many news outlets for Christians, Christian teachings and the Jewish people.

If you accept the need to find God, to find answers to our troubles today, the only place you will find the answers is in the Bible. So now let us examine how the Bible describes faith. The answer is in the book of Hebrews, Chapter 11 and verse 1.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.

That is what faith is, it may sound simple but as we go further into this topic, I am sure you find it is not simple at all, but it can be, and is, the most difficult thing to understand, specifically for a new Christian to grasp.

I hope I am not scaring you away by that comment, but if you stick with faith. You will be rewarded many times over.

Learning what faith is is good. But having trusting in God for everything you need is an altogether different matter. If you are not applying faith in your life, you have not learned to trust God in every situation of your life. But it is also important to remember that you must grow in faith. You cannot expect to trust God for your every need from the very start. It will mean a lifetime of changes to your behavior as you gradually learn to grow in faith towards God for your everyday needs.

It is also important to realize your faith will be weakened by the surrounding circumstances. Maybe your family and friends do not understand what you are doing as a good thing and may criticize you for your alternative lifestyle. This is when your trust in God will be tested the most. We all want to keep our families and friends happy, but at what cost? At these times, it is vital to remember the rewards you will reap when Jesus returns if you remain true to your calling.

Again, at other times, your faith will be strong. This is when you will seem genuinely close to

God, knowing He is always by your side, no matter how bad things may get.

Examples of People Who Had Faith

There are several examples in the Bible of characters who possessed true faith in God and what He is able to do. One exceptional case is encountered in Chapter 8 of the book of Luke. This story is about a woman who experienced a flow of blood for twelve years with no ending. She had treatment from doctors, but no one was capable to treat her for her dilemma.

Apart from the discomfort and embarrassment she encountered every day, she would still have been prevented from worshiping at the temple because of her blood flow. This was an important issue for her because she was not able to worship God in the temple. This is evident from the record of Leviticus.

Lev 15:25 "When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period.

The story of this woman begins when a leader of the Synagogue, whose daughter remained seriously ill, appealed with Jesus to go with him and heal his daughter. This is documented in Luke Chapter 8 and verses 41 through to verse 48.

Luk 8:40 When Jesus returned, the multitude welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.

Luk 8:41 Behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. He fell down at Jesus' feet, and begged him to come into his house.

Luk 8:42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as he went, the multitudes pressed against him.

From these verses, we observe a considerable crowd watching for Jesus to return and they pressed against Him. The NIV version of the Bible reads "the crowds almost crushed him". So the crowd really pressed hard up against Jesus as He followed the Ruler of the Synagogue. This is when we are introduced to the woman in verse 43.

Luk 8:43 And a woman was there who had been subjected to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her.

This story was likewise recounted in the book of Mathew, and here we discover how much faith this woman possessed that Jesus was able to heal her of her health problem. Notice she declared to herself she would be healed, not that she might be healed, but her attitude was remarkably positive and she anticipated she would be healed if she could merely touch His cloak.

Mat 9:21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Continuing in Luk 8:44, she came behind Jesus, not in front of Him, and secretly touched the fringe of His cloak and instantly her bleeding ceased. We see her faith that she would be healed in Mat

9:21 and now she is rewarded for her faith because all she had to do was touch the edge of the cloak of Jesus. She did not doubt, but having witnessed some miracles Jesus had performed, she would have been extremely confident He had the power to heal her of her burdens.

Luk 8:44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

It is essential to understand she never planned to approach Jesus personally, but she just preferred to do it all in secret and later quietly go home. But that would not happen. Even though the crowd was pressing hard against Him, Jesus knew someone had touched Him.

Luk 8:45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

Verse 45 again tells us again the crowd was pressing against Him, so how could He possible know this woman had touched His cloak? We have the answer in the next verse.

Luk 8:46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

Jesus could not have felt the woman touch His cloak, but He felt that power had gone out from Him. This force was the healing energy that healed the woman.

The woman's intention to return home unnoticed was made impossible, as we see in the next verse:

Luk 8:47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

When she came to Jesus and fell at His feet, she acknowledged she was the one who had received power from Him and how she was instantly healed of her ailment. It is critical to understand she was cured as soon as she touched His cloak, not when she fell at His feet. Not when she came face to face with Jesus. Look now at verse 48 and realize why she was healed. It was her faith.

Luk 8:48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Jesus did not tell her He would cure her. She was already cured as soon as she touched His cloak. Remember, in Mat 9:21 the woman accepted, or had faith, she would be cured just by touching the corner of His cloak. She did not doubt that she would be healed, as we observed from Mat 9:21, because if she had any doubts, then her healing would not have taken place. We see evidence of this in James 1:6-7.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.

Jas 1:7 For that man shouldn't think that he will receive anything from the Lord.

According to what Jesus declared, we are made to understand that it was not He who healed, but the woman seized the healing!! This should have us all understanding about our faith. We must ask, "is

God waiting for us to find sufficient faith before He will act?”, or should we, by faith, take what God has already given.

Why was this event documented in the Bible? Was it to provide for us a perfect lesson of what faith is and what it can accomplish for a genuine believer?

Daniel in the lions Den

The story of Daniel in the lion’s den is another outstanding lesson of someone who placed their hope in God regardless of the circumstances he was in. This is a remarkable story that most people have heard many times over.

Daniel was in a prominent position in the government of King Darius, and other members of this government were very resentful of Daniel and the high regard the King held him in. They devised a plan to get rid of Daniel by deceiving the King into signing an order whereby anybody who prayed to anyone other than the king should be thrown into the lion’s den.

Dan_6:7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

Dan 6:8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

Dan 6:9 So King Darius put the decree in writing.

The ambush was now set and all those who were scheming against Daniel just had to wait, because they all knew Daniel prayed three times a day to God. Even though Daniel learned of this conspiracy, he nevertheless prayed to God three times a day in an open window where he could be seen by those who were plotting his death.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel learned the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Dan 6:11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

The ambush is now sprung when Daniel is heard praying to God, so they go to the King and reveal what Daniel is doing, knowing he will be thrown into the lion’s den.

Dan_6:12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

The king is now compelled to carry out the order he had earlier been deceived into bringing into

the law. Daniel's fate is now sealed, and he is thrown to the lions.

Dan_6:16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

It is interesting here to notice the King speaking to Daniel as he was about to be lowered into the lion's den. "May your God rescue you". The King valued Daniel and did not want him thrown to the lions, but because of the law he was deceived into signing. He could not go back on his orders. Then we see the King going to the lion's den at first light the next day and finding Daniel has indeed been protected from the lions.

Dan_6:19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.

Dan_6:20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Now King Darius knows Daniel is safe. He then deals with those who conspired against Daniel. It is obvious from verse 24 that the lions were hungry, so why did they not devour Daniel? The answer is obvious; he was protected by God because of his faithfulness towards God.

Dan_6:24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

There are many places in the Bible where faithfulness is commended by God. It is also relevant here to recognize that Daniel was conscious of the conspiracy and realized the consequences he would suffer if he prayed to anyone other than the King. Knowing this threat to his life, he nevertheless prayed to God, and not to the King.

If we live our lives to please others and not follow what we know is the right thing to do, then we are showing a lack of faith. Having faith in God, trusting God is a way of life, even when it means you are persecuted because of your trust in Him.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

These three Hebrew boys also had great faith in their God, as we see in the story of them being thrown into the furnace of King Nebuchadnezzar. The King set up a statue of himself and commanded everyone to worship this idol, otherwise they were to be thrown into the furnace.

Dan 3:6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Again we see jealousy coming to the forefront, and these three boys being brought before the king for refusing to bow down and worship the idol.

Dan 3:12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

When the King warned the boys that they would be thrown into the furnace, they replied to the King.

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.

Dan 3:17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.

At this, the King ordered them to be thrown into the overheated furnace. But again we see the hand of God in rescuing them. When they came out of the furnace, the King then acknowledged it was the God of the Boys who had rescued them and then made the following decree.

Dan 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Dan 3:29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

We can also see God is faithful to all the promises He has made throughout the entire Bible. It is not just a case of us being faithful to God, but also of God being faithful to us. It is vital to keep in mind that we are not always rescued from our troubles. There have been millions of followers of Jesus Christ who have died rather than turn away from Him.

How Do We Get faith?

Now we have seen examples of faith, we need to know where faith is from. How do we gain faith?

Faith is based solely on God's promises, therefore there is only one source that exists for us to have true biblical faith. In Rom 10:17 we are told the following spiritual truth:

Rom 10:17 So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This truth is the starting place for anyone to get faith. It will only come to you by reading God's words in His book, The Bible. It is imperative we understand we will never get faith from our own efforts. If we pray for it, fast hoping to get it, have someone lay hands on us or try any other way to get it. We will fail. Faith is only gained by hearing or reading the word of God.

Even after you read and learn from the Bible, you must still learn to accept what the Bible is telling you, not only sections of it you are comfortable with, but the entire Bible. The Bible has been written to reveal God's will in our lives. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Heb 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

Notice here it is those who seek God that are rewarded. This means reading and studying the Bible regularly. Anyone who is just a casual reader of the Bible will certainly not see their faith growing as much as someone who is diligently studying the bible.

Heb 12:1 Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12:2 lets us know Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. Since the Bible is the word of God, and Jesus is God, then this is how He perfects our faith. We study His words and try to live by them. The Bible reveals God's laws and is a guide for us how to live our lives.

Gaining faith is a process. We must read from His words and then we will learn to trust in Him more. The Bible mentions several levels of Faith, from very little faith to mountain-moving faith. When we exercise the muscles of our bodies, we get stronger and fitter. It is the same with our faith, we must exercise it more and more until our faith grows strong. As we trust Him in every area of our lives, we will see His guiding hand in all we do.

In Rom 10:14-17 we are told again how we will learn what faith is and the best or only way we can get it.

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they

believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Rom 10:16 But they didn’t all listen to the glad news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”

Rom 10:17 So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Remember, especially verse 17. Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God. The more we learn and believe what God is telling us in the Bible, the more we will turn our lives over to Him. We believe Jesus is the “Son Of God” and obey His laws and accept His guidance. There will certainly be times when your faith or trust in Jesus will be sorely tested, but if you have been diligently seeking Him, He will be your help in the time of need.

The importance of reading and studying the Bible cannot be underrated. To go to church every week is good, but if that is all you are doing, then it will be of little help to you. Your devotion to God and your willingness to submit to His way of life can only come about by a regular and committed study of His words. The more you study, the more you will realize you have more to learn. You will never learn all there is to know about the Bible, even if you study it for a lifetime. Therefore, study should never bore you because you will keep seeing things differently as you dig deeper into His word.

Now we come to see that we cannot get faith from our own efforts apart from the study of God’s words. The word of Christ coming to us will impart faith to us. This is the only way we can get this precious gift of faith from God.

Gal 5:22 has recorded for us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Notice that faith is included. This is the faith of God and since the Spirit of God lives in Believers, we have that faith.

Gal_5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,

Then, when we read Eph 2:8-10 we see everything is a gift from God and we see why this is when we read verse 9. To gain faith and salvation by works would give us the ability to boast about how good we are. But as it is a gift, given freely, then we cannot boast but must instead give all the credit and glory to God.

Eph 2:8 for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 not of works, that no one would boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.

If we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us, then we also have the other fruits of the spirit as well. Since God wants us to be good stewards of the talents, or fruits of the spirit, then He expects us to share our time, money, talents, and gifts with anyone we come into contact with. If we place anything as more important than God, that would be idolatry.

Living By Faith

A true understanding of faith is critical for a true Christian, not just understanding but also living by what we learn from the Bible. Consider the following verse and you see that righteousness is revealed in the gospel and that righteousness is by faith from start to finish.

Rom 1:17 (NIV) For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Faith will also carry a cost. The cost will be as people see you as being different. Many will resent what you are becoming and criticize you for your alternative way of living. Those who do this will most times be member of your own family. Husband, wife, brother, sister, parents and many of your friends.

Living by faith is required to live a Christ-honoring life. God is not talking about a onetime event about placing your trust in Jesus, it is much more than that. Living by faith will always apply to your present and your future Christian life. It means you will believe in everything Jesus has done for you, including dieing on the cross, what He is doing now in your life by building your trust and faith, and certainly what He has promised you He will do for you in the future. This is always going to be a 24/7 lifestyle.

Believing in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the start of our journey to trust God for everything we need in our lives. The gift of God's grace, through the finish work of Jesus, will bring eternal life, but faith should not end there. His death has saved us from the penalty of sin, but we must continue in faith if we want to be free from the power of sin. These realizations will affect every part of our daily lives. It will deepen our dependence on God, as we realize we cannot live a perfect Christian life. We will always be sinners as we stumble and occasionally mess up.

When we live by faith, we are also looking forward to a time when we will be free of sin in His Kingdom. Christ will one day return for His Bride, The Church. If we can keep this thought in our minds, we should be filled with joy and gladness, even when things get tough and it seems the universe is against us. If we are confident in the work Jesus Christ has already done for us, what He is now doing, and what He has promised He will do in the future, then we can live our lives in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Right now is the time to live by faith. We know Jesus is going to return one day to His Church. Therefore, we should live today as if He will return today. But we must also plan for His return being a little in the future. We must carry on living our lives until He returns and not give up.

Take the first step

Now you understand a little better what faith is, it is time to apply it to your own life.

That is easier said than done. Remember how a baby learns to walk. They are very unsteady and fall often, then then get better able to stand with no support. From there they become steady and can walk without help. Finally, they can run and not fall. This is like how your faith will grow slowly but becoming stronger each day.

When you feel Jesus is drawing you to Himself, do not resist.

Trust God.

1Ti_4:10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have set our trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

It is OK to stumble occasionally, just remember that God will always be there to help you up again. Like any good and loving Father will do for his child. Believe He will take care of you and all He asks for in return is your love and praise. He will give you courage and strength when you need it the most. Make Bible study and prayer times a priority in your life.

Be a friend.

Php 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

You can start living your faith by simply being a friend to others and especially to those who may be underprivileged, poor, unwell or even in jail. Be a good listener and allow Christ's love to shine through you. The worst thing you can do is to be pre-occupied with your mobile phone or other device and not listen attentively to your friend. Always be authentic and inclusive when communicating with other people.

Use Your God-Given Gifts

1Pe 4:10 As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms.

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, let it be as it were the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be as of the strength which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We have all been given a unique gift, and we are expected to use it for the glory of God. There are many types of gifts, so the first thing you will need to do is to discover what your particular gift is. This can be the hardest part, recognizing your talent. But when you realize what that talent is, then you can use that gift to help other people.

Meet with others of Like Mind

Heb_10:25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Find a group of believers who have the same values as yourself and meet with them regularly. I do not belong to a regular church but I meet every Sabbath with some friends who are all believers and we study the Bible together. During these times of the Covid virus crisis we meet via zoom when we cannot get together physically. Remember what Jesus has said:

“Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the middle of them.”

Always be Positive

Pro 17:22 A cheerful heart makes good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

There is nothing worse than being in the company of people who are always negative and gloomy. So develop a positive attitude and always be this way, and certainly when you are in the company of others. We have the option to be positive or negative when situations in our lives go bad. Choose to be positive by glorifying God with your attitude and living your faith.

Seeing Is Believing

We live in a world where scientific proof is needed to explain everything. Anything that cannot be explained this way is not the truth. Therefore, just how do we live in a world that demands physical proof, even for matters that are spiritual? Spiritual matters cannot be tested by science, they are outside science.

To just openly dismiss faith in God on the grounds of no physical proof is to miss the point of faith altogether. Faith defies the “seeing is believing” idea the world demands. God’s elect will always hope for His Kingdom even though it cannot be physically seen.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.

When we turn to God, He will remove the veil of uncertainty, because Jesus Christ is where our faith comes from. We read in Rev 14:12 that it is the faith “of” Jesus that we possess, not our own faith but Christ’s faith within us. It is from Him we get our faith, as we see in Heb 12:2.

Heb 12:2 looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In Hebrews 11:6, God tells us it is impossible for us to please Him if we lack faith. We need the faith of Jesus to please God. Remember the faith of the woman with the blood issue, Daniel and the three Jewish boys who were thrown into the furnace. These examples of faith are there to encourage us.

Heb 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

We must rely upon the faith of Jesus to be in us and then we can please God the Father. There are many questions that we will not have the answers to in this lifetime. This is where our faith comes into play. When we choose to believe in what we do not see, God will show Himself to us in various ways that are without doubt the works of something that is much greater and bigger than we are. He accomplishes this through His amazing creation, our moral compass and our own consciences that tell us what is right and what is wrong. Through His son Jesus Christ and the leadership from The Holy Spirit.

We will never have all the answers to our questions, so we must rely upon faith. We can also look at God’s track record in keeping His promises, as we can see he has never failed to keep them. All the prophecies in the Bible have been kept, except of course for those that are yet future promises.

What we must do is to care a great deal more about building a relationship with God than to search for answers that are not revealed to us.

Four questions we should not ask

1. Why me? Rather than ask that question, we should seek to learn what we can from the

experience. How can I grow and build my character, strengthen my faith, and become more like Jesus?

2. Don't ask "Where are you Lord?". Move closer to Him through daily Bible study and prayer. God is an unchanging God so if you feel distant from Him, remember that is it you who has moved. Not Him!

3. Don't ask God "What is your will in my life" and then wait for God to knock on your door and give you a 100 page job description. Rather, seek God's will daily and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Ask with an open mind and a willing heart and be prepared to surrender to the leadership of The Holy Spirit.

4. Why did You allow this to happen? There will be many times throughout our lives when we will be tempted to ask God why He allowed something to happen. Whether it is something personal or a general problem in the world. Ask God for His comfort and guidance through all of life's troublesome times. Trust him with the future.

If we spend too much time searching for answers that may not be available right now, we are taking time away from building that all important relationship with God. First, build a loving and trusting relationship and follow His lead in your life. When we do this, we are living by faith and not by sight. We learn what it means to be compassionate, humble, loving and self-disciplined.

James 4:7-10 contains some precious advice.

Jas 4:7 Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jas 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Jas 4:9 Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom.

Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

If we are prepared to "live by faith," we are accepting an invitation from God to change our way of thinking (or to repent) and to trust Him for the "here and now" as well as for the future. Notice in the verses above that if we resist Satan, he will flee from us, and if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us.

We will all struggle from time to time when we feel we are lacking in faith. But this is when we must get closer to God through studying His words and through prayer. Never give up, because God has promised to never leave you, not fore-sake you. Many people believe that if it is from God, then it must be easy, but this is far from the truth and most times, if it is from God, then it may be the hardest thing you have ever been asked to do.

Conclusion

Having faith in God, trusting Him in every part of your life may not always be easy, but it will always be well worth it. Remember that this life is only fleeting and very temporary but life in God's kingdom is eternal, never ending.

We must be prepared for opposition to our faith. We live in a world that is becoming more and more anti-Christian so the obstacles to our faith will grow more each day.

Only through the regular reading and studying of God's Holy scriptures will you grow in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Sharing your faith expresses thanks and is an act of obedience to our Lord. But do not force your beliefs onto others. Remember that no one can come to Jesus unless God the Father draws them.

[Joh_6:44](#) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

It is a waste of time to believe in God in word only. Without a living faith, it is impossible to please God. Learn from His words what He wants from you. You must welcome Jesus Christ into your life and always seek His will.

Having full faith in God is not an easy road to travel, but the destination is a fabulous place. Be one of those who are saved, as we see in Heb 10:39.

[Heb_10:39](#) But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

About The Author

My name is Leslie Rendell and I am just a normal Christian who has had no formal religious education. I have no letters after my name to try to convince you that I know what I am writing about. I just sincerely search the Bible for the information that I need.

I am retired and now live in the South West of Western Australia. Apart from my love of the Bible my other hobbies are vegetable growing, using the hydroponic method and photography where I love to photograph God's creation.

When I am doing my Bible studies, I do not just read the Bible, but I select a topic that I want to know more about, (such as the rapture) then I spend my time researching it in the Bible and also on the "World Wide Web". I like to see what other people are saying on that particular subject whether I agree with them or not. I believe it is vital to see all sides of an argument before accepting one as the truth on the matter.

Once I have decided on what I believe is right, then I start to search the scriptures to backup what I think is correct. I find this a great way to study as I can concentrate on one subject at a time.



If you have read one of my books I would greatly appreciate you leaving a comment on the Amazon page where you downloaded the book.

Books By the Same Author

The Rapture

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B08KHXMK1T>

The Rapture is a very complicated topic and there are several ways to understand what the rapture is and when it is going to happen. This book was written to help you see what the Bible has to say on this subject.

Satan's Attempt To Defeat God

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B08HL66P5D>

Satan has been trying since the creation of the earth to remove God from His throne. Find out the different ways he has attempted to do this and see how his attempts were all brushed aside by God.

Why So Much Suffering?

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B08HLMZZRV>

Why is there so much pain and suffering in the world if God is in complete control of everything? If He is Sovereign over everything He has created, then why does He allow us to suffer?

Three Days And Three Nights

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Exactly how long was Jesus Christ in the tomb? The only proof that He was prepared to give to the Pharisees and Sadducees was He would be three days and three nights in the earth, the same time Noah was in the belly of the great fish.

Facts About Faith

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B08HL1S6R9>

Having faith in God is vital if you want to enter His Kingdom. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, so learn what faith is and how you can grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Do Not Conform

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B093KMWHNL>

What does God mean in the Bible by the term "Do Not Conform" and how do we comply with this commanded by God?

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B08HLBLW1W>

Many people do not believe in the resurrection of the dead or of Jesus Christ. This book proves this historic event actually happened but only if you approach the book with a mind ready to accept the word of God, The Bible, as the only source of evidence.