



May 9, 2022

Increase Our Faith

*So listen: Keep on asking, and you will receive. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened for you. All who keep asking will receive, all who keep seeking will find, and doors will open to those who keep knocking. Some of you are fathers, so ask yourselves this: if your son comes up to you and asks for a fish for dinner, will you give him a snake instead? If your boy wants an egg to eat, will you give him a scorpion? Look, all of you are flawed in so many ways, yet in spite of all your faults, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to all who ask! - (Luke 11:9-13 - **THE VOICE**)*

Because faith is a gift given by God as we are ready, it comes to us without any kind of strain, or hype, or exaggeration. We simply know, beyond a doubt, that “the LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.” We are not trying to impress anyone, most of all not ourselves. We just believe. David seems to have been blessed with that kind of faith. He trusted God deeply, even though he did not receive everything he asked God for. This shows up powerfully in the death of his child in 2 Samuel 12. He prayed for a week, lying prostrate on the ground, fasting and weeping. He really bent God’s ear. But when the child died, David arose, cleaned himself up, went to the tabernacle to worship God, and then had a meal.

His servants were perplexed by this. David explained himself this way: “While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me” (vv. 22-23). That is a beautiful demonstration of having a “no-lack faith.” It’s the real thing.

And it can be your thing too. You can ask that it be your experience. In the passage above we see Jesus’ promise.

Faith is a gift that is yours for the asking. Striving or pretending is not the way to faith. Nowhere does the Bible say that you should make yourself have faith, or that you can have faith if you say it, or that you ought to have faith because you are a Christian. Remember, faith is “the substance of things hoped for” (Heb. 11:1). When you have faith that you will have something you are hoping for, it is because God has created that confidence in your heart, and he is going to bring it to pass in partnership with you. God is running the show, and we can rest in that knowledge. The problem comes when we believe we ought to be able to have faith simply because we want to have faith. It is not possible. What is possible is asking, seeking, knocking . . . and then waiting on God.

Reflect: *It is also possible—and necessary—to be honest with ourselves and with others. Where we do not believe something, we should not act as if we do. Acknowledge your doubts openly and honestly and wait until faith comes. Seek God and ask him to give you the gift of faith. Faith is something you can identify in yourself. You know when you believe something, such as your belief in the sun rising tomorrow, or your belief in the chair you’re sitting in, or your belief in the loyalty of a close friend. You know you believe it. No faking or forcing is necessary. You simply believe it. You also know what you do not believe.*

Please, do not “try” to believe anything. Often, what is seen as the struggle of “trying” to believe, is the struggle to act as if we believe when we do not. Identify a specific area of unbelief in your life. Simply say to God, “Lord, give me faith. I am ready for it. Take me through whatever I need for it.” That is the way forward to the faith of sufficiency.