



**HOW DOES GOD
BUILD OUR FAITH?
HEBREWS 11:1-6**

HEBREWS 11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Question: If having faith pleases God, shouldn't it be our goal to have more of it?

One of the criticisms Jesus would sometimes levy against His disciples was, *“O ye of little faith.”*

So, in essence, we can obey God and *“do the right things”* but not out of great faith, but what I would call *“fumes”* of faith (the minimum required to be a Christian) *“Rich Young Ruler Stuff;” Matthew 19:16-22*

Therefore, if my testament of faith makes my life more pleasing to God, how does God get more faith from me? How do we enter, *“The hall of fame of faith?”*

HOW DOES GOD BUILD OUR FAITH?

#1 God Builds Our Faith Through Difficulties

Listen to Job write about God's affection for His servants: Job 7:17-18

“What is mankind that you should make so much of them, that you give him so much attention, that you should examine them every morning and test (try) them every moment?”

1 Peter 1:6-7

“... for a while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

HERE WE LEARN SEVERAL TRUTHS

Peter says that without suffering trials or difficulties, we may prove to be impostors

The difficulties we have in life have come to prove our genuineness (that we are the real deal/brand name)

Nothing ever happens in the life of a Christian by accident

A Christian's life is "a filtered life."

Nothing happens in a Christians life without God's permission (allowance)

I'm not saying that God plans bad things to happen to you, but because we live in a "broken world," (Romans 5:12), bad things do happen to good people; (illnesses, accidents, crimes, sometimes we are in our own way)

SOMETIMES GOD “CUSTOM MAKES” A PROBLEM TO GROW YOUR FAITH

**Jonah, in the Bible, had a “custom-made” problem that literally swallowed him up and got his attention;
Jonah 1:17-2:10 *“Now the Lord prepared a great fish.....”*”**

God placed Jonah in a situation in which he had to trust Him for help, Jonah 2:2:

“I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me...So the Lord spoke to the fish. And it vomited...”

Listen to God speak through Isaiah in Isaiah 48:10 about Israel : *“See I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”*”

The “custom-made” problem for the Rich Young Ruler, was to abandon his love for his resources, and follow Jesus; Matthew 19:16-22

THE APOSTLE PAUL DISCUSSES HIS “CUSTOM MADE” PROBLEM IN SCRIPTURE!

“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh (a physical issue?), the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

#2 GOD GROWS OUR FAITH THROUGH HIS DEMANDS

Question: What do Christians do when a command seems like a demand from God?

A command like, “Love Your Enemies”

A command like, “Don’t Worry About Anything”

A command like, “Forgive Other People”

A command like, “Be Thankful for Everything”

A command like, “Confess Your Faults One to Another”

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL IN EXODUS?

While on their way to the “promised land,” God put a command in their lives that was a demand

There was a food substance called “manna” that fell from the sky every day (bread-like), for their survival. Listen to what God tells Moses their leader, Exodus 16:4....

“...I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.”

OBSERVATIONS

Question: Why not gather enough for a week (like we do with tissue, paper towels, and wipes)?

Answer: To obey as directed and build Every Day Trust

Question: What if sickness kept you from getting out there every day? What about 2 Days worth in one day? It's more convenient.

Answer: Trust that it would be there when you got there if you followed God's instructions (some disobeyed and tried to hoard extra manna, and it rotted on them)

During the pandemic, perform God's already-revealed prevention methods every day (Wash your hands, Wear your masks, Practice Social Distancing and Vaccinate)

REMEMBER, FAITH IS OFTEN CALLED A “CALCULATED RISK”

Faith means that you don't have to understand everything in advance, Hebrews 11:1

Through meeting God's demands, you show that you trust Him, thus you have grown

Baptism is a demand in the plan of Salvation

I admit to you that I do not understand the redeeming “mechanism of action” of Baptism

Why does water have to be used? Isn't a drop as good as an ocean (sprinkling)? What about a simple “dry commitment?”

1 PETER 3:20-21

“.....when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

The like figure whereunto even baptism (immersion) doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

I Trust God To Save Me If I Obey Him!

Hebrews 5:8-9



THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38