

How To Develop Faith

Greg Wendschlag April 2, 2017

“The **ONLY THING** that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Gal. 5:6

Why is it important to develop faith?

- Because without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 11:6
- Because whatever is not of faith is sin. Rom. 14:23
- Because if faith expresses itself through love, it follows that the greater faith the greater the love. This is all that counts! Gal. 5:6

I. The Dilemma of Developing Faith

- No formula exists to increase your faith.
- Jesus Himself is the source of your faith.
- Faith is not an “it”, but a “Him”.

II. Principles of Developing Faith

- Jesus is the author of our faith; therefore stay close to Jesus. Heb. 12:2
- Faith is a fruit of the Spirit; therefore live by the Spirit and not for the flesh. Gal. 5:22
- Faith comes by the Word of God; therefore study God’s word and obey it. Rom. 10:17

III. Real stories to help us understand the faith life

- Understanding His authority: The Centurion vs The people of Nazareth
“I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith” Mt. 8:10
“He could not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.” Mk. 6:5
- Understanding desperation: The woman with the issue of blood vs The worried disciples

“If only I touch his cloak, I will be healed.” Mt. 9:21

“You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?” Mt. 16:8

- Understanding the His **presence**: The humble woman vs The fearful disciples

“Woman, you have great faith.” Mt. 15:28

“Oh you of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Mt. 8:26

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” Jude 20-25

Questions for your GIC this week

1. In light of this teaching, how do you “build yourself up in the most holy faith”?
2. Knowing the Spirit and the flesh are contrary to each other how do you make sure that you are living in the Spirit? Be specific with your thought process or intentional strategy.
3. What does “desperation” look like in our culture? Are we truly desperate?
4. It appears developing faith goes hand in hand with personal sacrifice. Can we develop faith without sacrifice? How?
5. What does the Centurion’s faith teach us about the relationship of God to our world?

