

Faith Basics – Wrap up

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Heb. 11:1 (NIV)~ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- What is faith?

Faith is a persuasion, a firm persuasion, faith is a conviction based upon what you have heard~faith is simply what you believe.

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Matt. 9:27-29 (NLT)~ After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

<sup>28</sup> They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?" "Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do."

<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen."

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The element that enables the promises of God written in the Bible to become reality in our life is faith.

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- How does faith come?

Rom. 10:17 (NKJV) ~ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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Mark 5:25-34 (NIV)~ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because

she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”

²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

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• Faith is a lifestyle:

Rom. 1:16-17(NLT)~ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

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• Christians are to walk by faith, not by sight:

2 Cor. 5:7(NLT)~ ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing.

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• Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Heb.11:6(NKJV)~ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

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• The victory for life’s battles is found in our faith:

1 John 5:4(NLT)~ For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

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• You can have faith and still live in defeat, unless your faith is released. We release our faith by our words and our actions.

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James 2:14-20(NLT)~ ⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸ Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

²⁰ How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

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Luke 17:3-6(NIV)~ So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.

<sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive them." <sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

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• Faith must be taken and held onto:

Eph. 6:16(NIV)~ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

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Heb. 10:23(NKJV) ~ <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

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1 Cor. 15:1-2(NKJV)~ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

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• Faith operates from a foundation of love:

Gal. 5:6(NIV)~ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

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1 John 4:18 (NIV)~ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

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• The results of faith normally appear after patience has been exercised

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Heb. 6:10~15(NLT)~ ¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. ¹¹ Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, to make certain that what you hope for will come true. ¹² Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

¹³ For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

¹⁴ "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."¹⁵ Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

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Heb. 10:35~36(NLT)~ So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! <sup>36</sup> Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.