

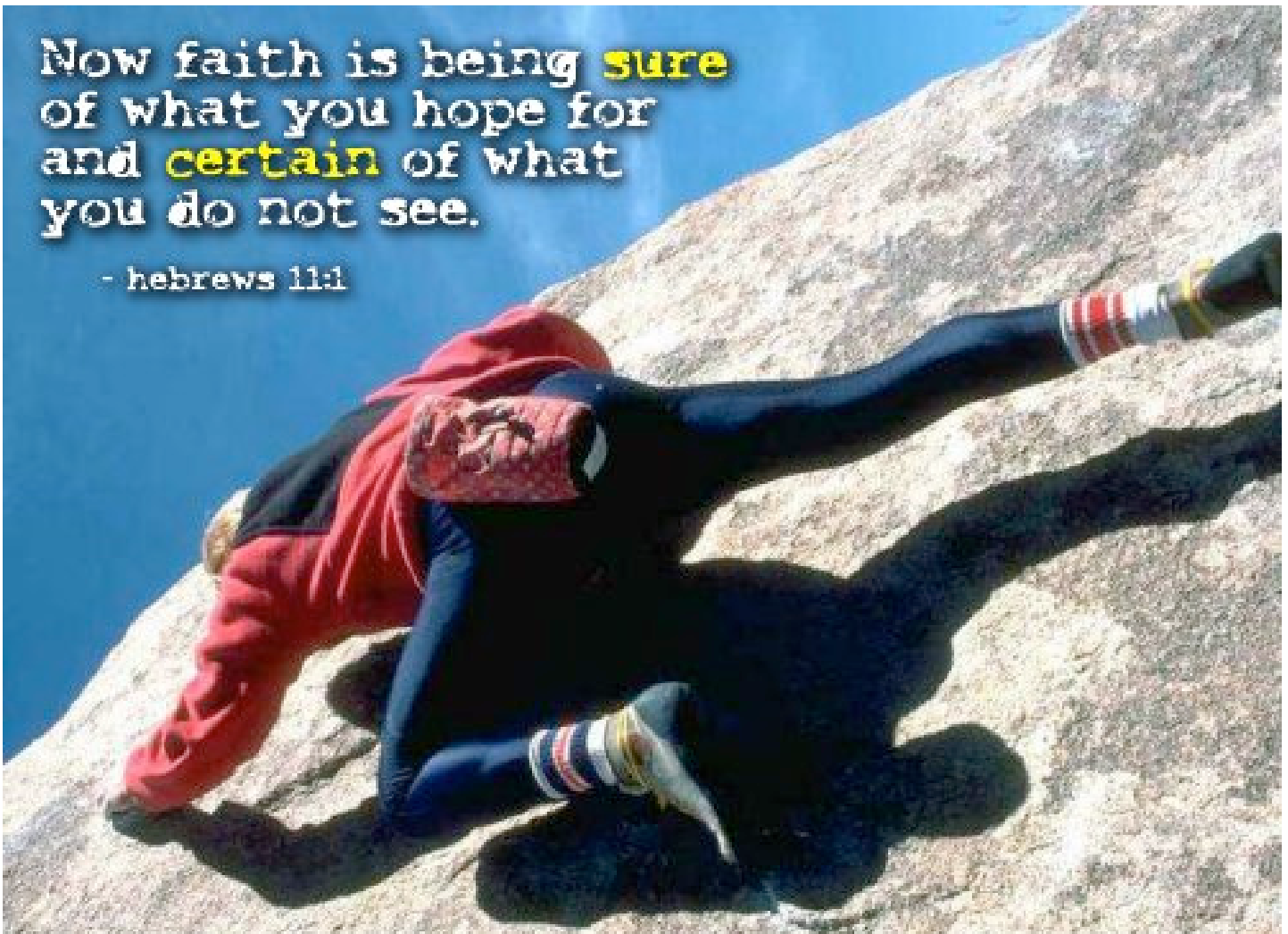
Eternal Life Worship Center

Stay in Faith

E-Life Weekly Devotional

Now faith is being **sure**
of what you hope for
and **certain** of what
you do not see.

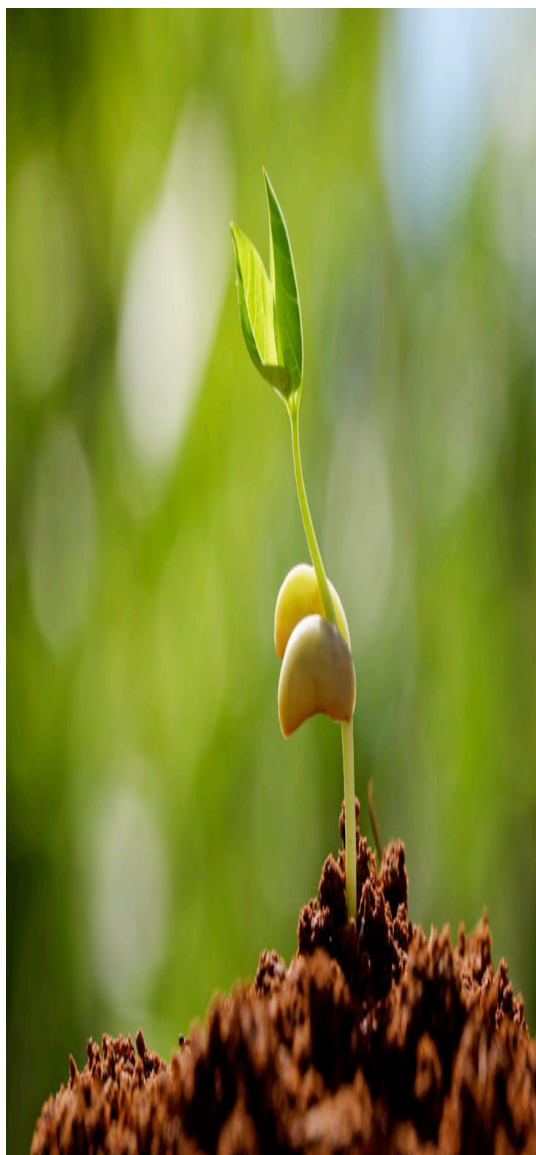
- hebrews 11:1



Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

"I believe, but help my unbelief!" That's what the father of the boy with convulsions said to Jesus (Mark 9:24). This must sometimes be our prayer, too. As we look at the great heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, we know this must have been their prayer as well. Their faith wasn't always perfect. Their trust wasn't always mature. But, they stayed at it; they believed and acted with a relentless assurance that somehow, some way, God would act and deliver. Let's stay at it with that kind of faith, too!

Staying in Faith



The bible talks about not getting weary in well doing for in due season you shall reap, if you don't lose heart. Even God knows there will be times when we all get weary in our well doing. However be encouraged, you will reap if you continue to do good things.

Have you ever wondered how you can stay in faith when looking at situations that seem impossible? There will always be challenges to test our faith. The key to overcoming impossible situations is to stay in faith and refuse to move from your stand on the Word of God. When you release your faith there will be a time of standing and trusting. You must not be swayed by your senses.

We have to stay rooted in faith. In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-21) Jesus explains that the seed is the word of God, and Jesus indicated that the devil will come immediately to steal the word out of your heart; but he can only steal the word that you don't understand.

As you plant a seed, it takes time for the seed to take root. Many people don't stay rooted because of impatience; you see that the seed does not immediately come up; it first must grow underground before you will begin to see anything growing above ground. This causes many to give up, because they don't see it.

The Primary Attack

The primary attack every person faces when they are in a faith battle is the enemy attempting to use the things we perceive with our senses to move us from our stance on the Word. It is the time period between releasing our faith and seeing the actual manifestation that is where the biggest fight occurs. No matter what Satan does to try and distract you, don't come off the Word. If you stay in faith and keep your mind focused on the Lord, He will bring you out with flying colors. Victory belongs to the person who refuses to let go of the Word. *the Word.*



Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. “For he will be like a tree planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green..

The Bible tells us how the root grows in Jeremiah 17:7-8; which says, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. “For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit. We see this also in Psalms 1:1-3 “blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper”.

To be rooted means to be established in the word of God. Remember that the root is the part of a plant that provides stability and nourishment for the plant. Jesus is our root that we must stay connected to (John 15:4-6) Jesus says “abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches, he that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Abiding in the Word is a key way to stay in faith. We learn to trust God in situations that look desolate. Believers are to walk by faith, not by what they perceive with their five senses. (2 Cor. 5:7) The spiritual realm, what we possess in our spirits, and the Word of God are more real than anything we might see in the natural realm. If we continue to confess and stand on the Word, we will see the end of our faith. 2 Cor. 4:18

2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV

As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



Do not look does not mean we ignor the natural things, but do not keep looking at or gazing at. Paul recognizes that the outward man is perishing, but by faith he sees more than the outward and more than the present. We must clearly see temporary things in the light of the eternal. Faith allows us to see the invisible.

Hebrews 11:1-3 gives us a description of what faith does and how it works. Faith is not blind hope or a emotional feeling. Faith can not be understood with the natural mind. It is not denying the facts of a situation. Faith is confident obedience to the word of God inspite of circumstances and consequences.

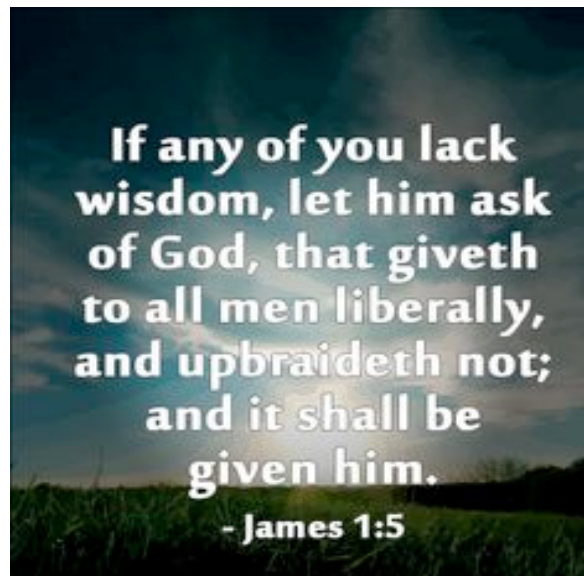
Faith operates like this; God speakes and we hear his word. We trust his word and act on it regardless of the circumstance and the consequence of that situation. We trust that God will work it all out for our good. Even in the midst of fear and the unknown we obey what God says and believe that he will cause it to work for our good and his glory.

Understanding the Law of Faith

What is the law of faith and how does it work? Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe and moral laws that govern the moral universe, there are spiritual laws that govern the spiritual universe and our relationship with God.

The law of faith is a spiritual law, just as the law of gravity is a physical law. The law of gravity prescribes that whatever goes up must come down. The law of gravity works whether you understand it or believe in it or not. For example, if you jump off a building, you will fall to the ground and probably get hurt and maybe killed.

Faith works according to spiritual law. The law of faith advocates that you get what you believe. . If you hold competing thoughts, beliefs, or images in your mind (believing God's Word, and then doubting God's Word), you break the law of faith and are not able to receive anything from God.



Don't be Double Minded

James opens his epistle by cautioning us to not be double-minded: "If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get His help... Ask boldly, and ask in faith, believing, without a second thought. People who worry about their prayers being answered (hesitating and doubting) are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way." James calls this being "double minded," and reminds us "if you are double-minded, you will receive nothing from God." Being double minded breaks the law of faith.

In Matthew 14:22-33, we see an example of this when Peter was walking on the water. When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water in the midst of the storm, he said, "Master if it is you, call me to come to you." Jesus answered, "Come." Peter stepped out of the boat and started walking on the water, but when he looked around and saw the winds and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. Jesus reached out and grabbed him. Interestingly enough, Jesus did not praise Peter for his efforts or say, "That's okay, you will do better next time," or "I appreciate you trying, probably no one in the world would have had the courage to try to walk



Doubt In the Word of God

Doubt in God's word took over, and he began to sink. Peter started out in the spirit, but he let fearful images of drowning crowd out Jesus' word and was not able to receive what he asked for. Did Jesus want Peter to walk on the water? Most definitely, Jesus invited Peter to do just that. Did Peter want to walk on the water? Yes! He asked Jesus to answer his request and Jesus said, "Yes." However, Peter could not receive what he asked for because he broke the law of faith..

Think about faith this way for a moment. The Bible tells us that the world and everything we see is made of what does not appear – the invisible. God created the earth out of nothing that could be seen.

In the beginning we see God's spirit brooding over the face of the waters. He was thinking of something. He had a design; He had a plan in His mind. Then God said let there be and it was. Everything that we see in nature was once a thought in the mind of God. All the things that we see that man has made, all the good and all the bad, were once thoughts in the mind of somebody. Jesus tells us that a good man, out of his treasures that fill his heart, brings forth good things and the evil man out of the treasures that fill his heart brings forth evil." This is how God made us. We all have creative power because we are made in God's image. This is spiritual law. It is God's desire that we think his thoughts after Him and bring His will and His blessings into the world.



on a stormy sea like that except you!" Jesus said something that might sound harsh to those who do not understand the law of faith. He said, "Why did you have such little faith. Why did you doubt me?" Jesus was trying to teach Peter about the law of faith. Peter was corrected for not having absolute and total faith in Jesus' word. Peter had used his faith to believe in Jesus' words to come out and walk on the water. He simply accepted the Word of God as truth. But Peter also used his faith to believe that the stormy waves were more powerful than Jesus' command. Peter was "double-minded."

Personal Prayer of Faith

Father, I come before You in the Name of Jesus, and I choose life today! I will walk in faith and not in fear. Because the Lord is on my side I will not fear what any man can do to me. Father, in the Name of Jesus, I ask You to open my eyes to any hidden areas of fear in my life.

Lord, Your Word says faith comes by hearing the Word of God, and I will build up my faith today by reading Your Word and acting upon it. Thank You, Father, for the hedge of protection that You bring in response to my faith. Thank You that through the righteousness of Jesus I can confidently trust in Your peace and safety for my life and home knowing that Your angels are always on guard. I believe today! In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Eternal Life Worship Center

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Service times Sunday-10 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8pm

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