

FULL LIFE ESSENTIALS

The Action of Spiritual Growth

FAITH

God loves His son so much that he has chosen to share his heavenly treasures with anyone who also loves His son.

Romans 8:17

And since we are his children, we will share his treasures-for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. (TLB)

Ephesians 1:3-4

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. (NLT)

Part of the spiritual inheritance that God has given us is the new nature he placed within us, which is made in His image and enables us to relate to Him and grow in His grace and knowledge.

When we trusted Christ for our salvation, God gave us everything we need to succeed in our new life.

Spiritual growth includes the process of discovering all that God has already given us.

The main element in discovering and living the abundant life God has given us is FAITH.

FAITH is the means God has given us by which we can have access to “every spiritual blessing we have in the heavenly realms”.

Without faith spiritual growth is impossible.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God... (NIV)

WHAT IS FAITH?

- **Faith is...Believing that God is true**

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (NLT)

Biblical faith is a complete confidence in who God is and what God has promised in the Bible. Faith believes God to be true regardless of what the circumstances or our physical senses say.

- **Faith is...Believing in the true God**

Hebrews 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (NIV)

Faith is evident all around us. Even atheists exercise faith in their lives.

What separates our biblical faith from regular faith is the object of our faith.

Our faith in God is sure and true because the God of our faith is sure and true. God is real and will never fail us.

The more you know about the nature and the promises of God, the greater your faith will become. The greater your faith becomes, the more of God you will experience and the greater the growth in your life.

- **Faith is...Believing when you do not see**

Hebrews 11:1

...it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:7

We live by faith, not by sight. (NIV)

Faith goes beyond our five senses.

If you can touch, taste, hear, smell or see it, then you don't need faith.

Rom 8:24-25

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (NKJV)

The reason that many Christians are not growing and seeing more of Jesus in their life is that their faith isn't reaching beyond their physical sight.

When we trust our senses more than we trust God, then we are in essence declaring God a liar.

No wonder the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God.

Faith begins where our senses end. If we can see it, then we don't need to trust God for it.

When we live by sight, our life will be limited because our sight is limited.

A life lived by faith is limitless because the object of our faith, God, is limitless.

- **Faith is...Acting on what you believe**

James 2:14

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? (NLT)

True biblical faith will always be proven by what we do, not by what we say.

Notice how the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11 proved their faith:

4 By faith Abel *offered* God a better sacrifice...

7 By faith Noah *built* an ark...

8 By faith Abraham...*obeyed* and *went*...

17 By faith Abraham...*offered* Isaac as a sacrifice.

The faith heroes of Hebrews 11 **proved** their faith in God and His promises by acting upon what they believed.

Faith is acting as if God is telling the **truth** regardless of the circumstances.