

God Needs Your Faith

Faith is not just a passive belief in God's goodness—it's an active force that allows God to work through you to accomplish His purposes in the world. When we understand that God often works through people rather than independently, we begin to see our crucial role in His divine plan.

How Does God Work in the World?

God desires to accomplish many things in our world, but He often works through willing vessels—people who believe in Him and cooperate with His Spirit. When we limit God through unbelief or disobedience, we restrict what He can do through us.

Jesus illustrated this principle when He told the story of visiting those in prison. He said, "When you did it unto the least of them, you did it for me." This shows that God takes our actions personally—both when we follow His heart and when we don't.

As believers, we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for what we've done, both good and bad. The goal is to be recognized for the good we've done by cooperating with God's Spirit.

What Drives Our Spiritual Growth?

The Love Connection

The primary way to be led by the Spirit of God is to follow the love that has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). When we walk in love:

- We gain clarity and light
- Confusion disappears
- We see God's path clearly

James 3 tells us that where self-seeking exists, there is confusion and every evil thing. Selfishness is at the root of ignorance, while love is the opposite of selfishness.

Faith Works Through Love

Galatians teaches us that "faith works by love." Our faith is actually in God's love to provide, care for, and help others. When we worry or fear, we're essentially doubting God's love for us. That's why 1 John tells us that "perfect love casts out fear."

How Can We Live Without Stumbling?

In 2 Peter 1:5-10, we find a powerful formula for spiritual growth that leads to a stumble-free life:

"Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

Peter promises that "if you do these things, you will never stumble." This isn't about occasional mistakes—it's about consistently hitting the mark rather than missing it.

The Path to Spiritual Success

When we follow this pattern of growth, we move from darkness into light. While the world has learned to cope with darkness, believers are called to be "children of light" who walk in the light.

God has created us to win, to succeed, to prevail, and to always triumph. The Bible says, "He always leads us in triumph" (2 Corinthians 2:14). If we're not experiencing triumph, it's a sign we're not following His leading.

What Role Does Our Faith Play in God's Work?

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus consistently acknowledged people's faith in their healing and deliverance:

- To the woman with the issue of blood: "Your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34)
- To blind Bartimaeus: "Your faith has made you well" (Mark 10:52)
- To the sinful woman: "Your faith has saved you" (Luke 7:50)
- To the leper: "Your faith has made you well" (Luke 17:19)

Jesus didn't just say "God healed you" or "I healed you"—He acknowledged their faith as the activating force that connected them to God's power.

God Needs Our Cooperation

In Ezekiel 22:30, God says: "I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

This reveals that God is looking for people to cooperate with Him. He doesn't just do whatever He wants whenever He wants—He needs our cooperation and the manifestation of faith in our lives.

Why Should We Acknowledge Faith?

We need to start acknowledging faith—both in ourselves and in others. When we praise someone's faith, we're not stealing glory from God; we're revealing God's glory because faith glorifies Him.

Philemon teaches that our faith grows effective by acknowledging every good thing in us in Christ Jesus. By recognizing and praising faith in action, we help it grow stronger.

Revelation 12:11 says believers overcome "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Your testimony—how you believed and what you did in your faith journey—is a crucial part of victory.

Life Application

This week, I challenge you to:

- Acknowledge your own faith: Take time to recognize how your faith has activated God's power in your life. Don't diminish what God has done through your belief.
- Praise others' faith: When you see someone standing in faith, acknowledge it. Tell them you see their faith and praise them for it.
- Add to your faith: Review 2 Peter 1:5-10 and identify which quality you need to develop next. Is it virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, or love?

- Act on a prompting: Follow a prompting of God's love this week. Remember, the primary way to be led by the Spirit is to follow the love poured into your heart.

Questions to Consider:

- In what areas of my life am I limiting what God can do through unbelief or disobedience?
- Am I acknowledging faith in myself and others, or do I only give credit to God without recognizing human cooperation?
- Which quality from 2 Peter 1:5-10 do I most need to develop right now?
- How can I better cooperate with God to allow Him to work through me this week?

Remember: God's power is here for everyone, but it takes someone reaching up with the cord of faith to plug into it and take hold of that power. Will you be that person this week?

Quotes

1. "Most of what God does comes through people. But many times, He's limited—not by His power, but by people not believing, not yielding, not getting behind what the Spirit is leading them to do."
2. "The number one way to be led by the Spirit is to follow the love of God that's been poured into your heart by the Holy Spirit."
3. "When you're walking in love, you walk in light. Love brings clarity. The more you walk in love, the brighter things become—there's no confusion in love."
4. "If you're not walking in love, your faith won't work. Faith is fueled by love—our faith is rooted in the love of God."
5. "The root of real faith is love—just like the root of fear is doubting God's love and care for you."
6. "Walking in love means walking in perfection. It fulfills every commandment and divine standard. When you walk in love, you're doing everything right."

7. "You want to be spiritual? Be kind. Respond kindly. Be thoughtful. Care about others. Consider what matters to them. That's true spirituality."
8. "When you invest in someone else's calling, you position yourself to see God's plan for your own life more clearly."
9. "If you do these things, you will never stumble—hallelujah! You won't miss it."
10. "We're not missing the mark—we're hitting it. Bullseye. And it feels good to hit the mark. When you're in alignment, everything you touch prospers."
11. "The Bible says He always leads us in triumph. So why don't we always experience triumph? Because not everyone follows His leading."
12. "A clear sign you're not following God's lead is that you're not walking in triumph. I'm not saying you won't face trials—but you're meant to overcome them in victory."
13. "I will live and not die. I will declare the works of the Lord. I will fulfill every phase of God's plan for my life."
14. "God doesn't just do whenever He wants whenever He wants. He works through our cooperation—through faith expressed in our lives. He needs our partnership."
15. "Your faith glorifies God. It brings Him honor. And because of that, your faith is worthy of being honored—it will be praised for eternity."
16. "God didn't do it alone—He did it with you. You stood in faith. You stood on the wall. You became part of what God was building. So kudos to you."
17. "Your faith made you well. Yes, it was God's power—but that power was present for all. What made the difference was faith."
18. "If we want to see more faith rise in people, we need to start acknowledging the faith they already have—recognizing the victories they've won by trusting God."

19. “Faith becomes more effective when we acknowledge it—both in our lives and in others. Don’t just praise God *for* what happened—praise Him *through* the people He worked through.”

20. “Giving God glory doesn’t erase your story. You still have a testimony. Revelation 12 says they overcame the devil by the blood of the Lamb *and* the word of their testimony.”

Verses

1. Romans 5:5
2. Galatians 5:6
3. 1 John 4:18
4. 2 Peter 1:5-10
5. James 3:16
6. Ezekiel 22:30
7. Mark 5:25-34
8. Mark 10:46-52
9. Luke 7:50
10. Luke 17:19
11. Luke 18:42
12. Philemon 1:6
13. Revelation 12:11

Summary

Faith is an active force that enables God to work through us to fulfill His purposes. God often accomplishes His will through willing vessels who believe in Him and cooperate with His Spirit. Our faith activates God's power, as Jesus repeatedly acknowledged when healing people. The path to spiritual growth involves adding virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to our faith. When we acknowledge

faith in ourselves and others, we help it grow stronger and more effective. God is looking for people who will cooperate with Him through faith to make a difference in the world.