# 5-Day Devotional: "Does Faith Make a Difference?"

*PM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – November 15, 2026*

## Day 1: Faith Begins With the Word

**Reading:** Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31

**Devotional:** Faith is not generated from within ourselves. It is not a feeling we manufacture or a resolve we summon by sheer willpower. Romans 10:17 makes clear that faith arrives through hearing, and hearing through the word of God. John wrote his Gospel with a specific purpose: that readers would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. This means that every time you open your Bible, you are standing at the very source of faith itself. The word of God is not merely information. It is the instrument through which the living God persuades the mind and transforms the heart. Do not neglect it.

**Reflection:** How consistently are you exposing yourself to the word of God? Are you treating Scripture as the foundation of your faith or as an occasional supplement to it?

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## Day 2: Faith That Works

**Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-8; James 2:14-26

**Devotional:** Hebrews 11 is not simply a list of heroic individuals. It is a demonstration that genuine faith has always produced visible, costly obedience. Noah built the ark. Abraham left his homeland. These were not passive believers. They acted because they were convinced that God was real, that his word was true, and that his promises were worth everything. James reinforces this in chapter 2, arguing that faith without corresponding works of obedience is dead. A faith that changes nothing, costs nothing, and demands nothing of you is not biblical faith at all. Real faith moves the feet, shapes the tongue, and orders the whole of a person's life.

**Reflection:** Is there an area of your life where your stated belief in God is not yet producing obedience? What would it look like to bring that area under the authority of your faith?

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## Day 3: Walking by Faith in Everyday Life

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 1 Peter 5:8-9

**Devotional:** To walk by faith and not by sight, as Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:7, means that the unseen realities of God govern the visible decisions of daily life. You cannot see God with

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physical eyes. You cannot observe heaven or measure eternity with any instrument. Yet faith insists that these realities are more certain than anything the eye can see. This conviction reshapes ordinary moments. It governs the words you speak, the temptations you refuse, and the integrity you maintain when no one is watching. Peter adds an urgent dimension: a real adversary is working against this faith daily. Sobriety and vigilance are not optional disciplines. They are the posture of every faithful believer.

**Reflection:** In what specific daily situations do you find it hardest to walk by faith rather than by what you can see or feel? What unseen truth from Scripture speaks directly to that situation?

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### Day 4: Reverence, Worship, and the Greatness of God

**Reading:** Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Psalm 111:1-10

**Devotional:** Solomon's counsel in Ecclesiastes 5 is both simple and searching: be careful when you come before God. Draw near to listen rather than to speak rashly. Let your words be few, because God is in heaven and you are on earth. This is not a call to fear God as an enemy but to revere him as the holy Creator who sustains all things and who gave his Son for our redemption. Psalm 111 closes with the declaration that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A casual, flippant attitude toward God and his word is not a sign of closeness to him. It is a sign of having forgotten who he truly is.

**Reflection:** How would you honestly describe your attitude when you come to worship? Is it marked by reverence and attentiveness, or has familiarity bred a kind of spiritual carelessness?

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### Day 5: Faith, Loyalty, and Following Christ

**Reading:** Luke 6:43-49; 1 John 5:1-5

**Devotional:** Jesus asked one of the most penetrating questions in all of Scripture in Luke 6:46, asking why people would call him Lord while refusing to do what he says. Knowledge about Christ and trust in Christ are not the same thing. A person can affirm every historical fact in the New Testament and still not follow Jesus. True faith in the person of Jesus Christ expresses itself in loyalty. It produces a willingness to study his words, obey his commands, and order daily life according to his teaching. John writes in 1 John 5 that this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is the one who overcomes. Faith is not the end of the journey. It is the power that sustains every step of it.

**Reflection:** Is your knowledge of Jesus producing genuine loyalty to him? Where does the gap between what you know and how you live feel most significant to you right now?