

Hello Church! I would like to congratulate you on making it over the halfway point on your fast and devotional study so far. It takes fortitude, persistence, and Faith to stick with a program. So, for today's devotional I would like to discuss one of these attributes, the gift of Faith. As we go through our daily lives, each one of us experiences difficult situations that are beyond our control. That may even be you today. A lot of the times when we go through pain or suffering, we are surprised that these situations find a way into our lives and forget that God has told us that we will experience hardships. We are given the gift of faith from Him and are taught to use this valuable fruit of the Spirit, but a lot of the time, we do not. In difficult or confusing times, we are quick to worry about them instead of having faith. Our First scripture is Ephesians 2:8-9

“For grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift from God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

The grace of God has given us the gift of faith, not because we deserve it, but as a result of the everlasting goodness of His works. It is important to know that this gift we have been given is not in exchange for us accomplishing goodworks. Appreciation for this gift should fill our hearts with humility knowing we've been given something we could never achieve on our own. Our second scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:7

“Therefore, we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

When we do go through hardships, whether they be financial troubles, painful relationships, damaged health or questioning our self-worth, it is hard for us to realize that God is still always working in us. This is because as humans we use our belief based on what we see and not by faith, which is what God tells us to focus on. Second Corinthians 5:7 tells us it can be difficult to trust God during uncertain times, but as believers we know that His ways are not our ways, and He will ultimately work all things for good.

Having faith in difficult times can allow you to find peace in God's presence. When you are unfaithful, it can harden your heart with pride and cause you to grow distant in your relationship with Him. Learning to give up all your struggles and problems to God can lift a heavy burden off yourself. God has given us the gift of faith so that we may use it to recognize His works and not be in constant worry when we are surrounded by uncertainties.

Another thing we forget to do in times of need is to recognize God's gift of grace to us. He has given this unmerited mercy to all of us by sending His son to die on the cross. We need to have confidence and assurance as we reach out to God with our struggles, that whatever He decides to happen is for our own well-being. If our

questions are not answered in the ways we hoped, instead of being quick to judge and worry, we can rest in God by keeping our faith in His infinite grace. It is our job to have faith in God no matter the price.

But don't forget that Faith is not just a noun, it is an action word. In James 2:20 we learn that faith without works is dead. God wants you to have a radical, supernatural faith. The kind of faith that Jesus showed us. A faith that miraculous works can and will be done that are equal too and even greater than Jesus. It says in John 14:12

“Very truly, I tell you. Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the father.”

I would like to call this a God kind of faith. A faith that anything and all things are possible by the grace of God. That God wants to use each one of us as his hands and feet to create miracles for his people. I would like to share an acronym that I came across recently that I believe describes this kind of faith Jesus showed us. Faith stands for **Forsaking all I trust him**. I want to encourage you to remember this acronym the next time you find yourself in worry, doubt, or fear. God is asking you to forsake the world and only trust in him. That his ways are pleasing and good. That He is your only source and what he has for you is yes and amen. Jesus showed us the way and its now our turn to embrace the kind of faith Jesus had so that God may give you all the blessings from Heaven that he has promised.

Lets Pray!

Thank you God for your grace that has given us the gift of Faith. I ask you today Lord to help me increase my faith so that I can trust in your ways and not my own. Lord God, today I humbly open my heart and I embrace you. I pledge today to forsake the things of this world and start only trusting in you. Thank you for the sacrifice your son Jesus made on my behalf on the cross. Because of the blood shed on the cross, I am able to cast out all fear, doubt and worry and replace it with a God like Faith. Thank you, Jesus, for being the perfect example for us to follow here on Earth. I pray this all in Jesus mighty name, AMEN!