

# The God Of Now

## Part 4: In Times Of Growth



The best thing we can do to prepare ourselves for the unknowns is to **GROW** our Faith. We can't tame the wind, but we can turn our sails.

Jesus described different sizes of faith. He spoke of *"little faith"* (Matthew 6:30), faith the size of a *"mustard seed"* (Matthew 17:20), and *"great faith"* (Matthew 15:28). Jesus organized faith by size because ***the strength of your faith determines how you experience something, and even what you experience.***

In Hebrews 11:1-3,6 (TPT) we see this kind of **faith**:

**1** Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen. **2** This testimony of faith is what previous generations were commended for. **3** Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinated by the power of God's words! He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen. **6** And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who give all their passion and strength into seeking him."

**First**, *faith brings our hopes into reality and is the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for...*

**Second**, the *result of faith*: **"The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd."** (TMB)

**Third**, the *necessity of faith*. ***God is not impressed with your talent, but your trust.***

*Your problem is not your problem, but your faith around your problem. In other words, when we fixate on our problem without focusing on our faith, we end up worse because whatever you focus on, you empower. If you focus on your faith, you will still have problems, but won't get stuck in them because your faith keeps moving you forward. Faith is so crucial in our daily lives. Literally, 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight".*

### **This Is The Faith That Helps Us To:**

- *Receive Healing From Sickness and Disease – Matthew 9:20-22,*
- *Have More Than Enough When Things Look Bleak – Matthew 14:13-21,*
- *Achieve The Impossible and Move Mountains - Mark 9:29; Mark 11:22-24,*
- *Endure Adversity and Hardship – Hebrews 11:32-40,*
- *Create Abundance and Live With Generosity – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, and*
- *Conquer Giants – Hebrews 11:32-40.*

On our Christian journey, storms arise. Here is the truth: There is nothing that is "risk-free" about our faith. And there is nothing easy. The growth is in the wilderness, the hard place, and OUT of your comfort zone.

John 16:33: **"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

**The Promise Was Never For A Life Without A Fight, But For The Faith Needed To Win The Fight...**

# The Top 8 Growth Principles:

## 1) The Principle Of Intention: Purpose Is Power

- ⇒ Where Your Focus Goes, Your Energy Flows.
- ⇒ Proverbs 29:18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."
- ⇒ Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."
- ⇒ Starve Your Distractions. Feed Your Focus. If You Chase Two Rabbits, Both Will Escape.

## 2) The Principle Of Pain: No Sweat, No Get.

- ⇒ No Pain, No Gain. Growing Pains Are Part Of The Journey.
- ⇒ Acts 14:21-23: "21 They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. 23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord..."
- ⇒ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: "16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."
- ⇒ The Pain You Feel Today Will Be The Strength You Feel Tomorrow.

## 3) The Principle of Pruning: The Mountain Is You

- ⇒ I Am My Greatest Solution, and Also My Biggest Problem.
- ⇒ John 15:1-3: "1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."
- ⇒ Proverbs 25:28: "Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control."
- ⇒ Self-Sabotage Does More To Limit Individual Potential Than All External Challenges Combined.
- ⇒ You Cannot Stay Where You Are If You Want Change Your Perspective And Life. Your New Life Will Cost You.

## 4) The Principle Of Containment: Containment Now Builds Capacity Later

- ⇒ What Looks Like Being Contained Is Actually Building Capacity. We Train In Order To Reign.
- ⇒ Acts 1:4-5: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
- ⇒ Success Is Where Preparation And Opportunity Meet. Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.
- ⇒ Use Seasons Of Containment Now To Build Capacity For Later.

## 5) The Principle Of Feeding: Inputs Determine Outputs

⇒ What Flows In Must Flow Out. GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out.

⇒ Galatians 6:7-9: “7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

⇒ High Quality Performance Is About High Quality Feed. Your Feeding Determines Your Fitness, Your Flourishing, And Your Future. Whatever You Feed Daily Will Become Your Reality.

⇒ Personal Healing And Recovery Often Look Like:

- ♥ *Quality Time With Yourself...* To de-compress and de-stress as you process life...
- ♥ *Quality Time With People Who Replenish You...* Be aware of the impact of others on your personal energy.

## 6) The Principle Of Consistency: Success Is The Sum Of Repeatable Actions

⇒ Evaluate Yourself Based On Seeds Sown Rather Than Harvest Grown.

⇒ Proverbs 13:23: “Abundant food is in the uncultivated ground of the poor...”

⇒ Proverbs 24:30-34: “30 I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; 31 thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. 32 I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—34 and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.”

⇒ Success Is The Sum Of Repeatable Actions, Day In and Out. Aristotle: “*We Are What We Repeatedly Do. Excellence, Then, Is Not An Act, But A Habit.*”

## 7) The Principle Of Incremental Improvement: Aim For 1 Instead Of 100

⇒ Small Consistent Improvements Over Time Lead To Massive Results. Aim To Get 1% Better Daily. Little Things Matter.

⇒ Proverbs 6:6-8: “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”

⇒ Small Consistent Improvements Over Time Lead To Massive Results. This Is The Aggregation Of Marginal Gains. Doing Nothing Versus Making Small Consistent Improvements:

- (1.00) To The Power Of 365 = 1.00 Times Improvement
- (1.01) To The Power Of 365 = 37.7 Times Improvement. If You Make A Simple 1% Improvement Each Day For 365 Days, You Will Accumulate A Total Improvement Of 37.7 Times More Than What You Originally Started With!

⇒ Where Can You Improve 1% Each Day?

## 8) The Principle Of Failure: Failure Is Neither Fatal, Nor Final

⇒ The Surest Path To Success Is Failure. Even The Very Best “Fail” Their Way To Success:

⇒ Proverbs 24:16: “For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.”

⇒ Luke 22:31-32: “31 Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”