

Soul Strength, Part 1: Faith
Matthew 15:21-28 ESV
Pastor Brian Uyeda, September 12 & 13, 2026

Faith is absolute belief and trust in Jesus.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. – Hebrews 11:1

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6

Question: How do we grow in faith?

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” – Matthew 15:21-22

1. We speak up and _____ our unconditional trust in God’s truth. [Matthew 15:22]

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? – Psalm 56:3-4 ESV

Live it out!

Q: What truth from God’s word am I hesitant or scared to speak out loud, to myself, to others, to Jesus? What truth from God’s word can I declare over my life today?

²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” – Matthew 15:23-25

2) We _____ closer to Jesus in spite of the cost or critics. [Matthew 15:25]

¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. – James 2:17

Faith that never moves never grows.

Live it out!

Q: What cost or critic has stopped me from moving closer to Jesus?

²⁶ And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly. – Matthew 15:26-28

3) We _____ on to Jesus even when His words are difficult. [Matthew 15:26-27]

⁵ Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. – Proverbs 30:5

Live it out!

Q: Where am I tempted to give up, let go, walk away because my timeline isn’t God’s? What truth or promise am I struggling to hold on to today? What do I need to do to hold on, knowing my faith is growing with each passing moment?