

UNORDINARY FAITH

The Art of Being Unordinary: Part Two

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“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” (Hebrews 11:8, NIV)

“So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.” (Galatians 3:9, NLT)

What Faith is NOT

- Not **POSITIVE** thinking.
- Not mental **ASSENT**.

“You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.” (James 2:19, NLT)

- Not **RELIGIOUS MAGIC**.

*“**Have faith in God.**” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done **for them**.” (Mark 11:22–23, NIV)*

What is Biblical Faith?

*“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
(Hebrews 11:1, NIV84)*

*Faith is a willful **decision** of **trust**,
expressed by an **uncomfortable** act of
obedience, which God uses to
accomplish His **will** through me by
delivering His **grace** to me.*

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. . .” (Hebrews 11:6a, NLT)

*"What can we do to perform the works of God?" they asked. Jesus replied, "**This is the work of God—that you BELIEVE** in the One He has sent." (John 6:28–29, HCSB)*

*"God's approval is revealed in this Good News. This approval **begins and ends with faith** as Scripture says, "The person who has God's approval will live by faith." (Romans 1:17, GW)*

FAITH is the key that cures us.

*"For it is by grace you have **been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—" (Ephesians 2:8, NIV)*

LACK OF FAITH is the curse that condemns us.

"...for whatever is not from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23, NKJV)

I FIND YOUR LACK OF FAITH DISTURBING.

Lack of faith. . .

- 1) Caused **THE FALL**.
- 2) **DESTROYED** an entire generation in the desert.

"So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief." (Hebrews 3:19, NIV)

- 3) Sends a person to **HELL**.

"...Anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son." (John 3:18, NLT)

- 4) **LIMITS GOD'S WORK** in your life.

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." (Mark 9:23, NLT)

"And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief." (Matthew 13:58, NLT)

THE SIMPLEST WAY TO GROW YOUR FAITH

*"The LORD appeared again to Abraham near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground. "My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey." "All right," they said. "Do as you have said.""
(Genesis 18:1–5, NLT)*

HOSPITALITY is the greatest expression of my spirituality.

"Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!" (Hebrews 13:2, NLT)

"Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire." (Jude 7, NIV84)

"Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. She was proud and committed detestable sins, so I wiped her out, as you have seen." (Ezekiel 16:49–50, NLT)

The 4 Requirements of Hospitality

1) FLEXIBILITY.

"He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby..." (Genesis 18:2, NLT)

"Always be eager to practice hospitality." (Romans 12:13b, NLT)

2) HUMILITY.

"...[he] welcomed them, bowing low to the ground My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey." "All right," they said. "Do as you have said." (Genesis 18:2–5, NLT)

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3, NIV84)

3) **GENEROSITY.**

“So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, “Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread.” Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf...” (Genesis 18:6–7, NLT)

“The [believers] worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—” (Acts 2:46, NLT)

4) **SERVE.**

“So Abraham ran back to the tent...Then Abraham ran out to the herd...When the food was ready, Abraham...served it to the men...” (Genesis 18:6–8, NLT)

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28, NLT)

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever...show you hospitality?... And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’” (Matthew 25:37–40, NLT)

ACTION STEP

Take the GRACE DAY Challenge!