

THE MASTER BUILDER

THE MASTER BUILDER OF MY FAITH

Nipun Ekanayake

Faith in Greek “*Pistis*, is used of belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ. ‘Faith’, means trust, confidence, assurance, and belief.

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.
(Hebrew 11:1 NLT)

Knowledge and Approval Of Christ Is Not Enough

Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.
(Romans 1:32, NIV)

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” (John 3:1-2, NLT)

Nicodemus understood the miracles and the teachings that Jesus had but did not believe in Jesus heavenly sovereignty.

Faith Is Personal

Faith is very personal; it is your connection with God. In addition to the knowledge of the facts of the Gospel and approval of the facts, to be saved, I must decide to depend on Jesus to save me.

Daniel In The Lions’ Den (Daniel 6:1–28)

Daniel 6:1-3

Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king’s interests. Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel’s great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.

- Daniel was a man that turned up and implemented to the best of his ability.
- As Christians today, we have to remain steadfast, faithful, righteous and stringent to the word of God. Jesus is our plumb line in which we are benchmarked against.

Daniel 6:6-14

- Daniel was a man of prayer. He prayed 3 times a day and he reinforced that God is the master-builder of his faith. When the news was told that he carried on his routine of praying to God. He knelt down and prayed. Scholars today believe that Daniel was an old man during this time. So, he had the discernment, wisdom and a sound mind to know exactly what he was doing.
- He knew what the consequences and gravitas of what he was doing and carried on praying.
- Remember God will ensure your success following His plan, not yours. Gods timing is not the same as ours, when you realise this you really have nothing to fear. This journey is short; we are passing through to get to eternity.

Verse 15-18

In the evening the men went together to the king and said, “Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed.” So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, “May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.” A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn’t sleep at all that night.

Verse 24-26

Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den. Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: “Peace and prosperity to you! “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.

We serve a great God. Look at the effect of Daniel to the King - an instant transformation.

How Do We Become Faithful?

1. I come expecting God to move.

What Daniel did successfully, was pray to God. He was consistent in prayer and even when laws changed against him, he always prayed.

2. I come in anticipation.

Come with a faith that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour. That Gods timing is always perfect. The King was more worried about Daniel than Daniel was about himself. The King even said in verse 16...*“May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.”* For a natural King to realise a heavenly King via Daniel is a testament to God and the character of Daniel and who he became because of God.

3. I Come focused and declaring.

Daniel throughout his time had the same reaction to all issues. He completely turned to God like he had been doing for all of his life.

Keep His Word despite setbacks. Faithful Christians keep to the course regardless of the storm, regardless of the criticism and regardless of the heat. We must have perseverance.

4. Come ready to give your all (including your finances).

Daniel was willing to give up his life for his belief in God.

Have faith in being committed to actively fulfilling your first fruit pledge. First fruits are a prophetic arrow into the future for the promises to come. It is given believing for the increase that God will give you in the future.

Daniel was willing to give his all including his own life, Daniel had a full reliance on God's strength, not his own and this set him apart.

Conclusion

I must decide to depend on Jesus to save me personally.

We can grow in our faithfulness by having a personal relationship with Christ. If we are truly faithful to Him and obey His commands, this will be evident in our lives. Faithfulness is built on your relationship with Christ and you grow the more you learn and read in the Bible. The key is to put your focus not on your situation but on to God, so God can show His faithfulness.

References

Systematic Theology - Wayne Goodrem
Partnership Guide - Chip Kawalsingh