

I. Introduction

Scriptures that explain faith and how it works.

A. Mark 11:23-24 (NKJV) – ²³*For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

- 1. Faith speaks to mountains.**
- 2. Faith believes that what is spoken will come to pass.**
- 3. The prayer of faith is to believe that we receive when we pray.**

B. Romans 12:3 (KJV) – *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

God gave us all the same start with the same measure of faith.

C. Romans 10:17 (NKJV) – *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- 1. Faith only comes through hearing the Word of God.**
- 2. By spending time hearing the Word of God, we may develop and increase the strength and potential of the measure of faith that God has given to us.**
- 3. What our faith becomes is up to us.**
- 4. We are responsible for increasing or developing it.**

D. 2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV) – *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,*

Notice, Paul’s explanation of how faith works is very much like how Jesus explained it in Mark 11.

II. Developing in Faith

A. Two necessary things for developing our faith.

1. You must feed your faith.
2. You must exercise your faith. (Practice your faith)

***Pastor’s Note:** There are no substitutes for either of these steps. Faith must feed upon the word of God, and we must take steps to exercise/practice our faith if it is to grow.*

B. The process of feeding our faith.

1. **Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)** – *But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
 - a. Faith is a living and active force.
 - b. Because faith is alive it must be fed.
 - c. The Word of God produces life and strength for our faith just as natural food provides life and strength to the body.
 - d. To think that one has faith without the life of the Word is deception.
2. **Feeding on the Word is sowing the seed for a future harvest.**

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- a. The #1 area where people are missing it regarding faith is in the sowing.
- b. People are attempting to reap a harvest where no seed has been sown.
- c. **The parable of the Sower.**

Luke 8:11 (NKJV) – *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

Luke 8:15 (NKJV) – *But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

Pastor’s Note: *The Word of God is the seed for our harvest.*

To sow the word is to feed on the word until it is established in your heart.

To reap a harvest, one must KEEP the word in their heart to bear fruit with patience.

Patience means you must be able to endure time and opposition that will come against the seed and your harvest.

3. Feeding on the Word will take our faith from one level to another.

a. Faith is measurable.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:3 (KJV)** – *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth*
- **Luke 12:28 (KJV)** – *If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?*
- **Romans 4:19-20 (KJV)** – ¹⁹*And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: ²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God*

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- **Matthew 8:10 (KJV)** – *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel*
 - **James 2:5 (KJV)** – *Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*
 - **Acts 6:5 (KJV)** – *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:*
- b. Faith only grows as we feed it through the Word of God.
- Spend time reading the Word.
 - Spend time meditating on the Word.
 - Spend time speaking the Word.

C. Exercising our Faith

To exercise faith is to practice faith.

1. **James 1:22 (NKJV)** – But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
2. **James 2:17 (NKJV)** – *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*
3. **To exercise our faith, we must begin where we are.**
 - a. **You cannot have faith beyond the Word that you have sown into the soil of your heart.**
 - b. **Growing in faith is a process. We must not attempt to use mature faith when we are at stage 1 faith.**
 - c. **George Muller:** *“When I first started, it took all the faith I had to believe for one dollar. After feeding my faith on the Word of God daily for fifty years, I can believe God for one million dollars easier than I could believe God for one dollar when I started.”*

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d. You cannot believe beyond your measure of faith.

Is your measure of faith at the same level as when God gave it to you?

What have you done to develop and increase the strength of the measure of faith that God has given you?

It you have not fed and exercised your faith beyond the beginning measure do no attempt to lift a heavy load!

4. Challenge

a. Choose an area in which you desire to develop your faith.

b. Research and write scriptures down to meditate and feed upon that will build your faith in this area.

c. As your confidence and assurance grows consider ways to exercise your faith in this area.

d. Do not overstep the level of your faith. Do not despise the days of small beginnings.