

TAKE HOME SHEET



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**Series:** Faith IRL  
**Message:** Faith Has No Shortcuts  
**Speaker:** Rusty Coram  
**Date:** July 16, 2023

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Think about the current state of your faith in God. If it isn't strong and growing, it may be that you have avoided handling the challenges in your life by taking short-cuts rather than a commitment to trust and obey God. You aren't alone! None of us is perfect, and God is ready to help us begin or restart trusting Him.

This week we looked at the story of Gideon and how he developed a weak and fragile faith into one that was courageous and strong. There are other examples in the Bible that also grew strong and resilient faith. You can find where to read about them below. As you do, ask God to show you how you can strengthen your faith in the same way these people did.

**Gideon:** Judges chapters 6 and 7

**Esther:** Book of Esther (short and action packed!)

**Ruth:** book of Ruth (great story of loyalty and God's provision)

**Daniel:** Book of Daniel chapters 1 and 2 (how God honored integrity and not compromising)

**Joseph:** Genesis chapters 37, 39-50. (a naïve teenager develops into a man of great character and influence)

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**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:**

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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Faith isn't automatic, magic, or something a select few possess.

Faith, like muscle, grows as we properly feed and exercise it.

<sup>12</sup> Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. <sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.  
Philippians 2:12–13 (NLT)

Short-cuts will only stunt our growth.

God allows us to face challenges that He wants to use to strengthen our faith.

He will never lead us into a challenge we cannot handle with His help.

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*  
1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.  
James 1:2–4 (NLT)

**A growing faith becomes familiar with...**

troubles	(1 Thess 3:3,4)
endurance	(James 1:12)
trials	(John 16:33)
courage	(Joshua 1)
perseverance	(Romans 15:4)
standing firm	(Ephesians 6:11)
taking up your cross	(Luke 9:23)
denying yourself	(Mark 8:34)

<sup>3</sup> We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup> And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:3–5 (NLT)