

FAITH

SCRIPTURE : HEBREWS 11:1

Now Faith is the **assurance** (reality/confidence/certainty) of things hoped for, the **conviction** (evidence/confidence/certainty) of things not seen.

Last summer I had a “crises of faith”, as you may or may not know. My 18 month old grandson was in the Paediatric ICU. As I looked at my dear sweet innocent grand baby, I wondered where was God? How could this be happening? See, it is easy to have “faith” when life is good, but what do you do when tragedy hits? In what, or who, is your faith? What is faith?

Elizabeth Elliot (missionary whose husband was murdered by the very people they were trying to reach) wrote these words:

“If your faith rests in your idea of “how” God is supposed to answer your prayers...then that kind of faith is very shaky, and is bound to be demolished when the storms of life hit it....

BUT

If your faith rests on the character of Him who is the eternal I AM, then that kind of faith is rugged and will endure.”

It took me a while but I found the great I AM, and He was who I believed Him to be. Faith by definition is belief, trust, confidence, and reliance, which is grounded in reality. It is not “**blind faith**” but it is “**eyes wide open**” sight! It is looking back, and seeing where God has been faithful in the past, and therefore being able to hope because I have the conviction that He will be faithful.

If you can not see God’s faithfulness in your own life, read the rest of Hebrews 11. There is a list of people who had confidence in God: Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, etc.

Does that mean that things always “work out”? No, is Nixon totally healed? No. Do your prayers always get answered the way you want? No. But is God there, in whatever the circumstance, acting according to his character? Yes, He is!

“When you KNOW God loves you (do you?), then FAITH is simply the expectation that God will show up, with that love in hand.” A parent’s love does not mean they give their children everything they want, or ask for. God’s love is even greater than a parent’s love. Therefore, he will not necessarily answer how we want, but HE WILL ALWAYS ACT IN LOVE, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.

DAY 1: READ HEBREWS 11, KNOWN AS THE HALL OF FAITH, AND CREATE YOUR OWN HALL OF FAITH FROM YOUR LIFE (example: Ernie, by faith, left everything behind, obeyed God and left for the mission field. Mike & Jaycia, by faith, placed their very sick child into the ultimate Father’s hands, in hopes of healing...etc.)

DAY 2: LISTEN TO THE SONG - ‘STAND IN FAITH’ BY DANNY GOKEY ([youtube.com/watch?v=0BL7mN4jV8w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BL7mN4jV8w)) - WHAT WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT DO THEY OFFER?

DAY 3 : READ MATTHEW 14:22-33. DID YOU NOTICE HOW IT WAS PETER’S IDEA TO WALK ON THE WATER? WHY DO YOU THINK HE ASKED JESUS THAT? WHAT MADE HIM SINK? HAVE YOU EVER HAD A GREAT FAITH MOMENT, WHERE YOU “STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT”?

DAY 4: READ 1 PETER 1:6-7. HOW DO THESE VERSES SPEAK INTO FAITH AND TRIALS?

DAY 5: READ MARK 9:24. WHAT DOES THIS VERSE SAY TO YOU? DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PRAY FOR GOD TO HELP YOU GROW IN FAITH? (regardless of your age, 16 or 85)

DAY 6: READ I CORINTHIANS 16:13. WHAT WOULD THIS VERSE LOOK LIKE IN YOUR OWN LIFE?

DAY 7: PRAY FOR THE OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS (or, if you don’t attend S.S., anyone in our/your faith community) - THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM IN THEIR FAITH.