

♦ What is _____ ?

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.

Definition: Faith is a belief in and confident attitude towards God, which involves commitment and surrender to his will for one's life

Faith is what _____ us to God

Hebrews 11:6 You see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

OUR STORY - 2 Kings 4:8-37

4 Life Applications:

#1. Faith grows in a heart that is not _____

James 2:14-17&20 Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, Well, good-bye and God bless you, stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all — it is dead and useless... When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless?

Key understanding: It is better to _____

your faith can go _____ and _____ the call of duty?

**What _____ would God have to do so that _____ would have faith against all odds?*

CLOSING THOUGHT

Habakkuk 2:4 The righteous will live by faith.

Radical Faith

The following letter was written by a young pastor in Zimbabwe just prior to being killed for his faith:

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made—I'm a disciple of his. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on his presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and labor with power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the en-

than _____
Life Principle: Faith - Use what you _____ have to _____ oth-
ers _____

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine. Test yourselves. If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test.

#2. Faith _____ us to go _____ the call of duty _____

Key understanding: Faith is _____ than just _____ in God _____

James 2:19 Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror!

#3. Faith doesn't guarantee a _____ life _____

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 I have ... been put in jail ... been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled many weary miles. I have faced danger from flooded rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the stormy seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be Christians but are not. I have lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food. Often I have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

Key Question: How do we _____

Psalm 119:16 I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

_____ when we face difficulties in life?

Philippians 4:11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

Life Principle: It's not just _____ to Christ when everything is going right, but _____ to Christ even when we do not understand!

That's Faith!

Key understanding: God never called us to be _____, but to be _____

#4. Faith sometimes is asked to believe _____ all _____

Luke 18:27 What is impossible from a human perspective is possible with God.

♦ Closing Questions & Reflections

*What do you need to _____ so that faith can grow in your life? _____

*What do you need to _____ so that you can be generous and giving and not self-absorbed? _____

*What do you need to experience so that _____

Psalm 119:98 Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven.