

“Faith Flavors”

(Faith Series Part 2)

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Techie M. Rodriguez
Elder-Founder



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Faith means having the confidence we hope for and assurance of what we don't see (Heb. 11:1). It is a Christian's key ingredient, for without faith, it is impossible to please God (v.6). Our Lord Jesus Christ requires all of us to have faith and we must examine the different flavors or levels of faith each of us has.

1. Different types of faith of people in the Bible:

- 1.1 The faith of the paralytic (Mk. 2:5). His faith was manifested through his friends and vice versa. God can also use your friends to manifest His power.
- 1.2 The faith of the bleeding woman (Mt. 9:20-22). When the Lord saw her faith, He healed her.
- 1.3 The faith of the centurion (Mt. 8:10-11). His belief went beyond the physical distance.
- 1.4 The faith of a Roman official. The official's son was healed by Jesus Christ immediately due to his father's faith. God's word would not return empty (Isaiah 55:11).

2. The different types of Faith:

- 2.1 **No Faith.** Jesus calmed a storm when they were sailing through the lake (Mk. 4:36-41). The apostles were afraid though Jesus was with them. Fear is the absence of faith, thus Jesus asked, "Where is your faith?" Like the apostles, we are afraid, but God tells us to live by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
- 2.2 **Little Faith.** In Mt. 6:30, Jesus reminds us not to be anxious about our needs. He reminds us that we are precious in God's sight (Isa. 43:4).
- 2.3 **Natural/General Faith.** This is a faith that believes the cause and effect in everything we do. We switch lights, turn on a car, plant seeds, etc., and expect a result. Our faith in God must be coupled with actions and then we leave everything to Him. We must share the Lord's Gospel in faith not in fear.
- 2.4 **Saving Faith** (Eph. 28). We believe that only God can save us in His grace. Our faith reminds us of our sinful nature, and It leads us to repentance, baptism, and walking with God continually.

2.5 **Great Faith.** The faith of the centurion about Jesus' power beyond space left an impression on Him. His faith was greater than the people of Israel.

2.6 **Fruit of Faith.** This is a faith empowered by the Holy Spirit. A matured Christian will produce fruits as mentioned in Gal. 5:22.

2.7 **Mustard Seed Faith.** It is a living faith that compels obedience to the laws of God. Though the seed is small, It grows to be large enough that it can move mountains. Our faith increases as we study the word of God and act on it.

2.8 **Full of Faith or Progressive Faith.** This is a faith that withstands time and continues to work with God no matter the circumstances.

2.9 **Gift of Faith (Supernatural Faith).** It is a faith given by the Holy Spirit - a gift that makes the impossible possible. This faith produces miracles.

3. How do we move to a higher level of faith?

- 3.1 Listen to the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
- 3.2 Put the Word into action (James 1:19-22).
- 3.3 Ask for more of it (James 1:17)

Conclusion: Our faith must be firmly established to have a relationship with God. No matter how small our faith is, it will grow if we prosper it. It is like a muscle that needs exercise to grow. God will give us all the faith that we need if we accept Him as our Savior. The Holy Spirit will guide us in our journey with Him.

Reflection:

1. What type of faith do you have?
2. How do you plan to increase your faith in God?

Prayer: "Lord, Thank you for your grace, your patience, and endless love. I commit myself to your care, knowing that you hold my life in your hands. In Jesus' name. Amen."