

FOCUS – THE KEY TO FAITH
MAY 3, 2020

INTRIDUCTION

When Jesus was on earth, He was God’s perfect will personified. So much so, He said “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.” What He revealed was a loving, compassionate, caring, Heavenly Father who was genuinely concerned about everyone’s well-being. As **PSALMS 84:11** says, He withheld no good thing from anyone who came to Him in faith. As **ACTS 10:38**, says, He did good and healed all, because God was with Him. If He’s the same today as He was then, what’s preventing Him from doing now what He did then? Has His will changed, or could it be something we’re not doing?

- **HEBREWS 4:2; 6:12; 10:38; 11:6; JAMES 1:6-7**
These verses reveal the importance of developing our faith in God. Without active faith, the gospel won’t benefit us, we won’t inherit our promises, we won’t live right, we won’t please God, and we won’t receive from God.
- These are but a few verses that emphasize the importance of our faith. For this reason, Satan will attack our faith in order to enforce his will in our lives. He doesn’t want the gospel to benefit us; for us to inherit our promises; to live right; please God or receive from God.
- **LUKE 22:31-32** – To sift means to examine it to determine if it’s genuine or fictitious.

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1. What hinders faith.
 - A. Human reasoning. Jericho.
 - B. What is seen. Giants.
 - C. Feelings of guilt. Past mistakes.
 - D. Negative advice. 10 spies.
 - E. Satan’s strategies. He comes immediately to get us to doubt God and believe him and align with him - Eve!
 - F. Worldly pursuits. Cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches and lust for other things.
 - G. Emotional feelings. Fear not, only believe.
 - God’s Word is the anchor for our soul. Our focus must be on God’s integrity and faithfulness. **HEBREWS 10:23**

HOW FAITH GROWS

1. No faith. **MARK 4:37-41**
 - A. The focus was on sight, feelings, and emotions.
 - B. They didn’t think Jesus cared.
2. Little faith. **MATTHEW 14:28-31**
 - A. Focuses on God’s Word but gets easily distracted by the circumstances. The focus shifts from God to the circumstances.
 - B. The remedy is patience.
3. Great faith. **MATTHEW 8:10, 15:27-28**
 - A. Understands authority and the power of the spoken word.
 - B. Doesn’t quit when challenged. She refused to give up.
 - David stood before Goliath with great faith. While others focused on reason, logic and what was seen, David’s only focus was on God.
4. Perfect or mature faith. **JAMES 2:18-22, GENESIS 22:4-5, HEBREWS 11:17-19**
 - A. Perfect faith sees it done before it happens.