

**BY FAITH – 5**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

**2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8**

We've been studying faith and the place it holds in our lives. As we continue, our focus will be on maintaining strong faith throughout our lives. Over time our faith can diminish, and we can exalt reason above God's Word. **PROVERBS 3:5-6**  
The faith fight is between the Word of God and reason, between our way of thinking and God's.

**HEBREWS 6:11-12**

There are those whose faith grew over the years and those whose faith diminished. We want to avoid the mistakes made by those whose faith diminished.

**ASA, KING OF JUDAH (HEALER OR PHYSICIAN)**

**2 CHRONICLES 14:1-5** – Asa's first revival. He takes the throne and institutes a series of religious reforms. He removes the pagan altars and shrines, and prohibits the sinful practices associated with them. He restores the worship of Jehovah as the national religion. For 10 years there is peace.

**2 CHRONICLES 14:9-12** – Ethiopia invades Judah with a million soldiers and 300 chariots. Asa trusts God and Judah prevails.

**2 CHRONICLES 15:8-15** – Azariah reminds Asa that Jehovah won the battle, and as long as they remained faithful, they would have peace. Asa's second revival occurs. He prohibits idol worship, reinstates worship of Jehovah, and decrees a death sentence upon all rebels. God gave them 20 more years of peace.

**2 CHRONICLES 16:7-13** – Asa's faith diminishes. Instead of trusting God, he negotiates with the Syrian King, steals from Solomon's Temple and his own palace, imprisons the prophet and crushes the people. When attacked physically, he turns to the sorcerers instead of God.

**KING DAVID**

**1 SAMUEL 17:32-37** – David's faith is off the charts. He trusts God explicitly.

**2 SAMUEL 11:1-5** - Instead of going to battle, David goes to bed and sins with Bathsheba. He brings Uriah home from war to cover his sin. Uriah is a man of

integrity and a war hero. **2 SAMUEL 11:11** says it all.

**1 CHRONICLES 20:1, 21:1,7** – David sins by not going to war and by counting his troops. David brings judgment upon Israel. Where is the David of **PSALMS 20:6-9**? He went from killing Goliath to killing Uriah.

## **ABRAHAM**

**GENESIS 12:1-4** – Obeys, but lacks faith to believe God could protect him in a foreign land where there was no fear of God. **GENESIS 12:11-13, 20:11-13.**

**GENESIS 17:15-18** – Doesn't believe God can help them conceive.

**ROMANS 4:17-22** – **HEBREWS 11:17-19** – He goes from not believing God's power could help them conceive to believing God had to raise Isaac from the dead. Slow start, strong finish.

## **LESSONS TO LEARN**

1. Asa started well, continued well, but didn't finish well. If we want to finish well we must:
  - A. Put God first, trust Him when challenged, praise Him for every victory and train for the long journey. **HEBREWS 12:1-3** - Consider the saints, self, and the Savior.
2. David started well but didn't finish well.
  - A. Know our covenant, speak the Word, resist the devil, and don't give in to fleshly desires.
3. Abraham started slow, but ended strong.
  - A. Following God's will is profitable, when we fall He provides mercy and forgiveness, nothing is impossible with God, meditation helps overcome reason.