

Pursue Faith!

Ponder: What is faith, and how am I to pursue it?

Scripture: “. . . pursue righteousness, godliness, faith . . .” (1 Timothy 6:11, NKJV).

In Mathew 8, Jesus commended the “great faith” of a centurion (vv. 8-10), but reproved the “little faith” of the twelve (v. 26). What was the difference?

In the first instance, the centurion humbly pleaded with Jesus to heal his servant. Though he felt unworthy to have Jesus come to his home, the centurion had full confidence in Jesus’ ability to heal, even from a distance. “Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed” (v. 8).

Jesus’ disciples, however, demonstrated a meagerness of faith in the latter part of the chapter. When a storm arose on the Sea of Galilee, they feared that they would perish. Fear and faith are like oil and water – they just don’t mix well!

Faith, then, goes far beyond mere intellectual belief; it is a confident trust in the Lord. Fortunately, faith is something in which we can grow. If your faith is weak, it doesn’t have to remain that way. Paul was pleased with the Christians in Thessalonica because, he said, “your faith grows exceedingly” (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

Since God’s word is the source of faith (Romans 10:17), pursuing faith will certainly involve delving deeply into the Scriptures. A cursory skimming over the top will never develop the robust faith every child of God ought to crave.

Like any muscle, faith becomes stronger when it is exercised. Hebrews chapter eleven records great examples of men and women who pleased God by their confident, trusting obedience. By faith Abel “offered”; by faith Noah “moved” and “prepared”; by faith Abraham “offered”; and on it goes. The faith that pleases God, the faith we are to pursue, is the faith that obeys!

Pursuing anything takes work. Faith is no exception. You cannot absorb faith by sleeping with a Bible under your pillow. You cannot assimilate it from your parents or your spouse. Only dedicated Bible study and disciplined obedience to the things you learn will result in a strong, growing faith.

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