

“When My Love For Christ  
Grows Weak, When For Deeper  
Faith I Seek...”

Ps. 51:1-17; Luke 17:5; Heb. 6:4-6

“When my love for Christ grows weak, When  
for deeper faith I seek....”

- Knows he needs faith
- Wants to have faith
- Doesn't want to lose his faith
- Makes claims to faith

**Faith is Precious (2 Pet. 1:1)**

**Faith is something we share with others (2 Pet. 1:1)**

*Do you ever see things in your life - makes you  
wonder - what's happening to me?  
Do you ever surprise self....?*

“When for deeper faith I seek...”

#### **What Can Happen:**

- **Fail (Luke 22:32)**
- **Deny it (1 Tim. 5:8)**
- **Depart from it (1 Tim. 4:1)**
- **Shipwreck (1 Tim. 1:19)**
- **Stray (1 Tim. 6:10, 21)**
- **Overthrow (2 Tim. 2:18)**
- **Cast off (1 Tim. 6:11-12)**
- **Become unbelievers (Heb. 3:12)**

“When for deeper faith I seek...”

#### **What Should Happen:**

- **Groweth exceedingly (2 Thess. 1:3)**
- **Increase (Luke 17:5)**
- **Strengthened (Col. 1:11; Eph. 3:16)**

#### **Apostle's Dissatisfaction With Their Faith**

- **Their faith had failed them.**
  - In the storm they were afraid. **Mt. 8:26**
  - On the sea, Peter doubted. **Mt. 14:31**
  - On the Mount of Transfiguration, they failed to perform a miracle. **Mt. 17:20**
- **They did not despair. Luke 17:5**
- **They sought improvement.**
  - **NOTE: 2 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 3:13ff; Eph. 6:10; 1 Cor. 16:13**

“When for deeper faith I seek...”

- **In times of temptation. Jms. 1:1-2; 1 Jno. 5:4; 1 Cor. 10:13**
- **In times of sadness and sorrow. Mt. 15:28; Dan. 3:13ff; Heb. 13:5; 12:1; Phil. 2:12-16; Rom. 8:31-39**
- **In time of duty and obedience.**
  - Forgiveness. **Lk. 17:1-4; Col. 3:12-15**
  - Giving **1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 8:1-3**
  - Assembling. **Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 20:7**
  - Seeking the kingdom first. **Mt. 6:33**

**Faith is shown in obedience! James 2:18**

### The Manner Of Increasing Our Faith

- **Desire for more faith.** Cf. **Lk. 17:5**
- **Resort to the source of faith...God's word.** **Rom. 10:17**
- **Appropriate to our hearts and lives the teachings of God's word.** **Jms. 1:21ff; 2:14ff**
  - Pray for health... take care of our bodies.
  - Pray for daily bread... work diligently.
  - Pray for the lost... go or send a teacher.
  - Pray for increase of faith... use the measure we have and seek to grow. (cf. **Mt. 13:12**)

### Appreciate our Blessings Hebrews 6:4-6; cf. Lk. 15

- **Our present spiritual blessings give us reason to maintain our hope**
  - Grace, fellowship, word. **Eph 1:3; 1 Cor 3:21-23**
- **Our hope anticipates even greater blessings.** **Rom 8:24-25**
  - Full assurance of hope to the end...not sluggish. **Heb 6:11-12**

### Connection of Hope and Faith

- **When our "hope" dims it is because our "faith" grows weak.**
- Abraham obtained the promise because he patiently endured. **Heb. 6:15** "**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD!**" **Gen. 15; Rom. 4; Jms. 2**
- We must imitate the patient endurance of Abraham's faith. **Heb. 6:9-12**

### What Happens

#### Taken For Granted

- Ignore warnings - losing
- Assume - stay same
- Think: "Never happen.."

#### Neglect

- Fail to feed it (**Col. 1:9-11**)
- Fail to add to it (**2 Pet. 1:5ff**)
- Fail to exercise (**Lk. 17:5-10**)
- Fail to check it (**2 Cor. 13:5**)

### Checking our Faith

**2 Cor. 13:5** "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." **KJV**

- Do you believe what you have always believed? **Col. 4:12**
- Do you feel that your faith is stronger now? **Col. 2:7; 2 Thess. 1:3**
- Do you tolerate things you didn't before? **Eph. 5:3-11**
- Are you not as bothered by wrong (sin) as you used to be? **James 4:4**

### Checking our Faith

**2 Cor. 13:5** "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." **KJV**

- Are you bored with Bible reading & study? **2 Tim. 2:15; Ps. 1:2**
- Are some acts harder to do now? **Mt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11**
- Does "saturated" or "damp" describe your faith?
  - "Be filled" **Col. 1:9** "Abound" **1 Cor. 15:58**
- Has your appetite changed? **1 Pet. 2:2**

## Checking our Faith

*2 Cor. 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." KJV*

Examine yourself!

- Must be personal. Ezek. 18:20; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12
- Must be by the right standard. Prov. 14:12; Jn. 12:48
- Must be thorough. Ps. 139:23-24; Jms. 1:4
- Must be honest. Num. 32:23; 1 Jn. 1:8-10
- Must be continuous. 1 Cor. 9:27; Jms. 1:25; Rev. 2:10

## "Lord, Increase Our Faith" Luke 17:5

- *We are involved in a fight of faith. 1 Tim. 6:12*
- *We labor in a work of faith. 1 Thess. 1:3*
- *We are a member of the household of faith. Gal. 6:10*

*Our salvation is dependent upon this prayer and its answer!!!*