

PASSAGES THAT PUMP ME UP:

WHAT FAITH LOOKS LIKE

July 10, 2011



"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV)

"The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living." (MSG)

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

Eight Definitions of Faith

1. Faith is STRETCHING MY IMAGINATION

"God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or dream—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes." Ephesians 3:20 (LB)

Example: Abraham (Genesis 15)

2. Faith is TAKING THE INITIATIVE

"She ... came up behind [Jesus] in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.'" Mark 5:27-28 (NIV)

Example: The Woman Pushing through the Crowd (Mark 5:24-29)

3. Faith is RISKING A FAILURE

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

Example: Simon Peter Walking to Jesus (Matthew 14:25-33)

4. Faith is EXPECTING THE BEST

"According to your faith it will be done to you." Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

Example: Sight for the Blind (Matthew 9:27-30)

5. Faith is WAITING FOR AN ANSWER

"I waited patiently for the LORD; [Who] inclined to me and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1 (NIV)

Example: The Children of Israel (Exodus, Numbers)

6. Faith is FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

Examples: Abraham (Genesis 12), Gideon (Judges 6-7)

7. Faith is BEING PERSISTENT

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Example: Noah (Genesis 6)

8. Faith is REBOUNDING FROM FAILURE

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18 (NIV)

Example: Paul (Acts 9)