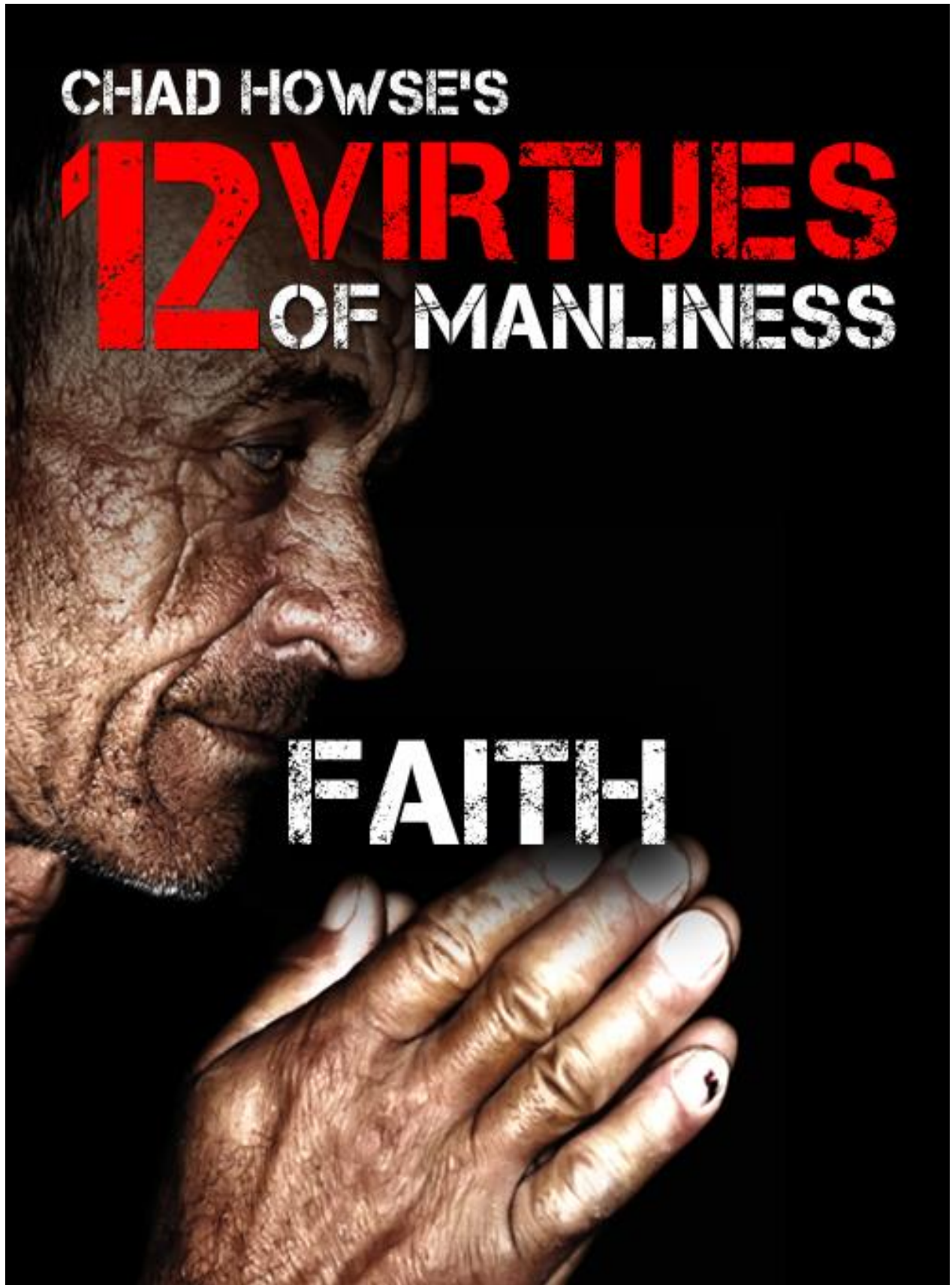


CHAD HOWSE'S

12 VIRTUES OF MANLINESS

FAITH



FAITH

Faith can be described as belief in the unknown.

As a Christian, I value faith but not necessarily blind faith. Any faith needs reason and logic as a foundation. I'm not going to get into my *religious* faith, but rather a belief in the 'yet to happen'.

This 'faith in the yet to happen' can pertain to your religion, but it must pertain to your future, and it has to be founded on logic and evidence.

You *have to have faith* that you're going to get what you deserve, that you're going to be able to endure whatever you're put through, that you're going to live the life you want to live, possibly in spite of horrors that may occur, not because you're blindly believing, but because of the man you are.

My Christian faith, or a belief in a God, stems from the fact that there is order in everything. It makes sense that a being, an entity, *something*, set this cosmos in motion.

My faith that I'm going to be okay in the long run stems from the fact that I get up early and work hard every day, and that I learn, and that when I make a mistake, I correct it.

You cannot have faith that you're going to 'make it' if you're lazy. It's illogical. You cannot have faith that you're going to become *the man* if you're a coward, it's just not going to happen.

By that same logic, however, it makes no sense *not to have faith* if you're improving every day. It makes no sense *not to have faith* if you're working hard every day. It's just as illogical *not to believe* in yourself and your future if you're a hard worker as it *is to believe* in yourself if you're lazy.

But you need faith, and it is a virtue.

The alternative is a gloomy, cynical outlook on life, and such outlooks inevitably are proven true.

The mindset of faith is typically proven true, too. That is, *the true, fundamental* belief that, with the talents you're born with and your desire to improve that are backed by real, persistent action, you're going to win in life, will likely be proven true.

If you're going to be the rock of your tribe, your family, your peers, you need to have faith.

Faith isn't blind optimism.

FAITH

Blind optimism is setting an unrealistic, even stupid expectation and then setting your heart on said expectation to come to fruition.

When it doesn't happen, you're devastated, distraught, done.

Faith, again, is backed by your work ethic, something that you control.

Faith is built on the foundation of courage, again, something you can control.

Faith is real. It has logic. It's necessary as a leader to possess.

HOW TO DEVELOP FAITH

This is easier said than done, especially if you've lived your life doubting yourself, even cynical about your prospects or how the world works.

Faith is developed through action.

I'm sure those monks who sit around all day humming are on to something, but they're also lacking something. They're lacking the tests that develop faith. They're lacking the exposure to things that test faith.

Faith is a constant work in progress. It's developed through action and study. You cannot achieve it if you're ignorant, nor can you accomplish it if you're scared to put it to the test.

Read:

Proverbs

Man's Search for Meaning

Any book by the stoics – Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, Seneca

Unbroken

The study of faith can take place in the study of individuals who have overcome. It can be found in the study of psychology or scripture. Faith helps you smile at the face or danger or fear or worry. It's the solid foundation helping you propel while everyone around you is falling through quick sand.

Faith is logic. Faith is the right choice and pessimism is the wrong choice. Cynicism is the choice of the weak while faith is the choice of the strong.

Study, but go out into the world and test yourself. The more you test yourself the more you'll realize that your faith in yourself, in your future, in the gifts that your Maker have given you, are valid, even logical.