

## DAY 1

### Holy Faith

Josh Caldwell

Today's text: [Mark 11](#) and [Daniel 3](#)

*“Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.” [Mark 11:23](#)*

I heard a funny story which serves as a great illustration to the difference between human faith and Holy faith: It was prayer time, and it was little Jonny's turn. With the loudest voice he could muster he said, “GOD I WANT THE BIKE I SAW AT THE STORE TODAY, THE RED ONE WITH THE COOL WHEELS!” At this, his father reminded him that God was not hard of hearing. Little Jonny said, “No, but Grandma is, and she is in the other room.”

How often do we limit our prayers to ask God for things that we already plan to get or plan to take care of ourselves? Our faith in God at that point is only an insurance policy to make sure nothing gets in our way. It is a scary faith to believe in a God that can and will do things that we cannot, but it is even scarier to ask.

In the scripture, Jesus says, “If you have faith, you will tell this mountain to go into the sea, and it will.” What a difference between faith in Grandma and faith in God. We are often convinced by the enemy that a prayer such as “please heal someone” or “meet our financial needs” are too risky. What if God does not answer? What if we make God look bad?

You see there is great news, scripture says we cannot make God look bad, and our faith is not in His answers, but in Him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tell King Nebuchadnezzar, “Our God hears our prayers and can spare us from the fire, but if He chooses not to save us now, we still choose Him.” This is a Holy Faith, and it is by desiring God more than His answers that we can stand firm and ask anything of Him.

#### Sample Prayer:

*Father God help me to have the faith in you that would leave me no fear in asking anything. I have family that is sick and friends that are hurting. You know my heart, and its desires, so I ask for you to intervene. Lord, I know you are the God who is able, and I pray I would seek you, not your answers. I love you. Amen.*

#### Prayer Prompts for the rest of the day:

- Today when you see a bike, ask God to increase your faith
- Today when you see a young child, ask God to increase your faith
- Today when you see a Grandma, ask God to increase your faith.

Further Study: [Hebrews 11:1](#)

## DAY 2

### Don't Believe in Yourself

By: Mike Walk

Today's text: [Judges 6-7](#)

What you believe says a whole lot about you, and how you act shows exactly what believe.

Western Culture advocates many different messages. One message that seems to be shouted from the rooftops is the thought that you need to "Believe in yourself." That belief, for some, requires more faith than for others. Some are naturally gifted and bring numerous skills to the table. If they "believe" in their abilities, they just might be able to go far. There are some success stories where that might appear to be the case. But for most of us, the idea of believing in ourselves brings with it the specter of reality that says, "It's not that easy."

Gideon was an average man that came from an average clan of relatives. He brought nothing unique to the table. In our passage, God finds Gideon scratching out a living just trying to survive during an occupation from a foreign army. He has little food, little security and virtually no hope.

As we read this passage we see that Gideon is a perfect candidate for God to move powerfully in his midst. Gideon is perfect because he brought so little to the table. Have you ever felt like that? God first addressed his identity (v. 12). God gave Gideon a high calling: free His people (v. 15). But then God goes on to make the circumstances even graver and more impossible for Gideon to accomplish in his own strength.

God removed every possible way for Gideon to believe in himself. Rather, God's calling forced Gideon to believe in God and His character. Time and again Gideon had to, in essence, close his eyes and move forward with blind faith in what God said He would do. God's calling and the parameters He set to accomplish this calling brought about a story that we are still pondering thousands of years later.

When we bring this concept into our walks with Jesus, we are no longer believing in *ourselves*, but rather in the person and work of Jesus Christ. When we place our faith not just in what Jesus did on the cross, but also in His person and the promises He makes, it should radically impact our everyday experience.

Maybe you are like me and attempt to conduct your life with ease and predictability. That's hard to do because there are so many things we aren't in control of. Rather than controlling our lives, what if we drilled down into the character of the One who truly conducts every aspect of our lives? What if we began to get familiar with His promises and pray them back to Him? When we pray His Word and promises back to Him, we are posturing our hearts to believe them to be true.

By doing this we aren't holding God to our standards or expectations but rather we are holding Him to His own.

Sample Prayer:

*Jesus, thank you for Your promises. Lord I long to be a man / woman of faith, great faith. I long for You to accomplish Your will through my life. Forgive me for the many times I've tried to merely "believe" in myself. I want to "believe" in You! Help me to grasp the magnitude and scope of all Your promises. Remind them to me and grant me the ability to take You at Your Word.*

Prayer Prompts for the rest of your day:

- In this situation, Lord show me a promise you would have me cling to today.
- Lord, help me encourage someone today with your promises and let me live a life today that shows the world how faithful and good you are.
- Show me where I am lacking in faith, and grant me everything I need to grow in this area.

Further Study:

[Philippians 1:6](#), [Philippians 4:4-7](#), [Ephesians 2:11-22](#), [Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

## DAY 3

### Faith That Soars

Melissa Nystrom

Today's text: [Hebrews 11](#)

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

[Hebrews 11:1-3](#)

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is called the "The Faith Chapter." The author of this book introduces each of the 18 examples in chapter 11 with the words "by faith" to show how the heroes of the bible had endured trials on earth in light of future rewards. This kind of repetition is called anaphora. It's a great way to drive home and substantiate point. You might have heard it in Martin Luther King's speech from the steps of the Washington monument: "I have a dream!"

When I was a child I would pick my grandmother's brain almost daily. At times she would become so frustrated with my questions over heavy theology she would answer with, "Melissa, Because the Bible says so, that's why!" Once when asked how one might *know* they were in fact saved she yelled, "Girl, you better know!" I guess deep thoughts with an eight year old wasn't really her jam. Bless. Her. Heart.

I'm so glad there are so many resources at our fingertips. Aren't you?

What is faith? The Greek word for faith is *pistis*. A firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing. *Pistis* is kin with the Greek word *peitho*, persuade. Faith is simply taking God for His word. It's believing that the Bible is the Word of God.

True faith is a firm conviction that in turn brings the believer to personally surrender to God and His word. Head knowledge isn't faith. The way we live and conduct ourselves shows how personally surrendered we really are. True faith has evidence.

Does your heart burn with a desire for God? Do you want to please our Father with your faith?  
Does your life reflect a surrendered life?

Let's pray dangerously today. Ask Him to place people and situations in reach, so you can work out your faith. Search Him for the answers you need today, and I promise He won't respond the way my grandmother did!

Sample Prayer:

*Father God, it is so easy for me to put my faith in power and money. I'm tired of feeling secure when my bank account has plenty. Remind me that through the cross my greatest debts have*

*been paid. Help me to live by faith and not by sight. I want to live a life of total dependance on You. I want my faith to soar!*

Prayer Prompts:

- Where I lack faith, God show me where I don't entirely trust your Word to be true.
- When I don't surrender, God remove strongholds that prevent a complete surrender to your will.
- When I trust in my own abilities, God reveal opportunity to display a dependency on you.

Further Study: [Matthew 7:7-11](#), [Jeremiah 32:17](#)

## DAY 4

### He Knows Best

Josh Caldwell

Today's text: [John 10](#) and [Matthew 7](#)

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

[John 10:1](#)

*"Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"* [Matthew 7:9-11](#)

A story is told of a man sitting beside a young boy on a commercial flight. The plane was starting to have some strong turbulence. The man looked over at the boy, and he was as calm as could be. Over the next few minutes it started to bother the man, so he asked "Why are you not scared?" The boy replied, "My dad is the pilot." A few more minutes went by, and the man looked over at the boy and said, "The fact that your dad is the pilot does not change the storm outside this jet." With that the little boy said, "I am not worried. My dad knows best."

I remember the days of believing that my earthly father could do anything. I once told a second grade teacher that my dad killed a bear with his bare hands. As a child, our perspective is completely trusting, and our faith is without limits. I believe this is the faith that God instructs us to have when we pray. When we do pray with believing our heavenly Father knows best, it opens our hearts to the comfort and peace that the young child on the jet had.

Now as an adult, I find this to be the most difficult when the storm is all around me. *Why would God fly me right into this storm?* I have often seen the answer to that question many years later, but in these moments, Scripture tell us that we must have faith in our Father. The scriptures in John and Matthew tells us of the goodness of our Father, and the Bible is full of examples of His resolve for our spiritual well-being.

I can't help but smile when I read that He has abundant life and good things for his children. The next time the storm is around you, remember to have faith and trust He knows best.

#### Sample Prayer:

*Father God, you are the author of my faith. I stand here right now asking you, my dad, to help me have faith to believe you know best. These storms in my life seem bigger than I can handle. Please Lord, comfort my heart with your presences. Lord, in my heart, I want the all-encompassing faith I had as a child, and I start by praising you for abundant life and good things you have for me. I love you. Amen.*

Prayer Prompts for the rest of the day:

- Today when all hope seems lost, ask God to increase your faith.
- Today when life is going well and all is perfect, ask God to increase your faith.
- Today when someone around you is scared of the storm, ask God to let you share your faith.

Further Study: [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

## DAY 5

### Marvelous Faith

Mike Walk

Today's text: [Mark 6:6](#), [Mark 9:24](#)

Have you ever wondered about what Jesus marveled at? Was Jesus ever caught off guard, perplexed, or flustered? Mark 6:6 shows us at least one moment when Jesus might have actually thought, "Seriously, you are going to reject Me and My message?" This passage shows us that Jesus marveled at the unbelief that He found in His home town.

The haze of unbelief was so thick in Nazareth that the passage highlights Jesus only healed a few sick people there as opposed to larger, more significant times of healing like He did in countless other towns. I've been struggling lately wondering if my unbelief has caused others in my life to struggle and suffer. That village continued to suffer as they watched the Master walk away because they chose not to believe.

Contrast that story with one found a few chapters later in Mark 9. Here is a story of a father that knows his son's condition is well beyond his skill and the scope of the doctors to fix. He goes to the only people he knows who can help, those who have been with Jesus. After a while Jesus enters the scene and begins to triage the situation. He asks the concerned father some questions. Desperate and a bit impatient, he opens his mouth prematurely. I can imagine once the words leave his lips he regrets having said them. He says, "If you can, please help us."

*If you can.* Was that request held in the shackles of unbelief? The father is scared and at his wits end. I can imagine Jesus looking in his eyes when He says, "If you can..." Have you ever doubted God? Most of us are wise enough not to put our doubts into words and express them to the King of the universe, but many of us have doubts that at times slip out like this father's. But then Jesus makes a profound statement, "All things are possible for one who believes."

Do you hear the father's passion to make things right? He humbly acknowledges his faithlessness and longs to become more full of faith at the same time. He cries out, "I believe! Help my unbelief." A heart's disposition like that is one that Jesus can take to new heights.

Jesus knows we are frail, scared and timid when facing the giants and dangers of this world. He loves us too much to shame us and leave us broken and discouraged. He desires to meet us where we are and take us to the next level. Would you trust Him to do that this week?

Sample Prayer:

*Jesus, you know that I have been faithless in the past. You know that I've made decisions that have conveyed my fear and lack of trust in you. I want to trust you more. I want to believe and be known as a woman / man of faith. Help me in this. Show me where I haven't trusted you and work on my heart there. Thank you for your patience with me.*

Prayer Prompts for the rest of the day:

- Lord if the world looked at my life, what would they say about you and your faithfulness? Help me live today so the world sees you are worthy of my faithful trust.
- Give me a testimony today that I can encourage someone today
- Grant me courage to step out in faith today.

Further Study: [Mark 8:5-13](#)