

## Faith Infusion: Believe God At Your Own Risk!

### INTRODUCTION

Faith. Got some? Of course you do. The question about your faith is this: is your faith rock solid, or is it as wobbly as the legs of a newborn baby giraffe? Over the course of your life and walk with Jesus, it's probably been both. And depending on the circumstances of what you're facing, you've probably felt like you didn't have enough faith, or even none at all. Not even mustard seed size. I know how you feel. I've been there. At times, my faith has been rocked harder than the Rolling Stones!

That's how life works. Your faith ebbs and flows. But, you don't have to stay in the low tide with low faith. Your faith can soar more than it slumps. That's why I wrote this devotional. I want to help you increase and stabilize your faith. I know, that's a tall task.

Here's the deal, though. It's not on me. It's on God. He's going to help bolster your faith as you read through this **7-Day Devo: Faith Infusion: Believe God At Your Own Risk!** You'll find practical steps that you can use to partner with God (and other people!) to increase and maintain your faith through life's circumstances.

Thanks for reading and using the **Faith Infusion: Believe God At Your Own Risk! Devo.** If you dig it, share it with anyone who could use a faith increase in their life.

Let's get started and get your faith fired up!

### DAY 1

One of the primary things Christians struggle with is faith. Whether it's faith to believe in what you've prayed for, or faith in the *God who always keeps his promises* (ain't it interesting that we still doubt him?), we still struggle to believe. That's the ultimate paradox, isn't it?

You know that God cannot lie ([Titus 1.2](#)), and *always keeps his promises* to us, but you still doubt him and what he's said. Why is that? Are you filled with doubts like Thomas ([John 20.24-29](#))? Or, have you forgotten the prayers God has answered for you (keeping a prayer journal will help you!) and the victories he's won for you in the past? I submit to you that it's both of these things and more.

Here's the deal. When you pray, you should fully expect God to answer you. What you've got to understand and accept is this: God will answer in his own time, in his own way, because he knows when you're ready and able to receive the answers to your

prayers. He gives you what you need when you're ready for it. Even though you may not feel like you're ready for it.

Know this: when you ask in faith, you've got to know that you know that you know that you know that you KNOW that it's done. You can't be out here being double-minded, maaaaan! [James 1.6-8](#) makes it clear that you shouldn't expect to receive anything from God when you're double-minded.

So, when you ask God for something that lines up with his will, rest. Rest in the truth of knowing that God's going to do it. All that's left for you to do is to thank him and begin praising him for it. Now go ahead and get your praise dance on!

### **Faith Infusion Scripture:**

**Psalm 91.15** When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.

**James 1.6-8** **6** But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. **7** Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

## **DAY 2**

It's a great thing that God trusts you more than you trust yourself or we'd never get anything done! Here's another thing about receiving from God in prayer: our motives and our hearts have to be right to receive what God has for us. Yep, I said it. If your motives and heart ain't right, you already know what will happen: God's not giving you jack!

If he did, we'd straight up act up and start acting all brand new! We'd be like, "Hey, look at what God gave me and only me and it's mine and I ain't sharin' with anyone, and you suck and that's why God ain't givin' you nothin' so take that, stinky pants!" We'd straight up squander and ruin God's gifts and blessings for us. Stop looking at your screen like something's wrong. Stop frontin', because like Milli Vanilli, yes, you know it's true!

So how do we get this unwavering belief, faith, hope, and trust in God, knowing that he'll answer our prayers no matter what we do or don't see with our eyes?

First, **we should expect God to answer us.** Because he will. I know you're buggin' right now, saying, "Eric, you are straight trippin', bruh!" No, I'm not. I'll prove it to you. Let's go to the word. Peep...

*"I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!"* **Isaiah 65.24**

See? Oh, you want more evidence? Ok, peep this.

*"When he calls out to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver and honor him."* **Isaiah 91.15**

And this, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* **Jeremiah 33.3**

Not only will God answer you, he said that while you're still hittin' Him with your super-crazy long list of needs, I already got you covered! But, Bill, I don't think you need that Aston Martin. Now, on the other hand *I* could certainly use it and, umm... What's that, Lord? I don't need it either? Oh, and I should mind my business, too? Oh, ok. Thanks, God.

Sorry for that interruption, but God had a quick word for me about minding my business. Back to the point, and let's keep it real. You know you don't need all of what you're asking for, maaaaan! Some of your stuff is just stuff you want. Yep, you're busted, and it's all good, because you're all in the same boat. Ain't it great then, that God knows what we need *when* we need it? Of course, it is!

### **Faith Infusion Scripture:**

**Jeremiah 33.3** And this, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."*

### DAY 3

When you pray, and you're faithing things out (yes, I just made faith a verb!), we should **believe that God's answer to us will be exactly what we need, when we need it.** You've just gotta have eyes to see it ([2 Kings 6.15-16](#)) and realize that it may look differently than the images and pictures you've created in our minds, or what we want it to look like. Here's what I mean.

Let's say I'm praying and asking God for a black Honda Accord with a sunroof, and heated seats, and I'm asking for it to cost \$4,000. Over time, as I pray *and* go and look at cars (how often do we skip the do-step in our prayers? smh.), I see a white Honda Accord with a sunroof, and heated seats. Oh, and it's \$4,000.

Well, well, well. Looks like you've got a bit of a conundrum. This is a case for...Encyclopedia Brown! Ehhh! Wrong! This is easy. God gave me exactly what I prayed for. Except it's white. Now, unless I just have to have a black Honda Accord, I'd be a fool to say, "Nah, this ain't it, chief."

How many times do we get what you've prayed for but it looks a bit different than what you've prayed and asked God for, but because we don't have eyes to see, we miss out on it and say, "Well, I guess God doesn't want me to have it." Or worse yet, "Well, I guess God doesn't answer *my* prayers." Tragedy among tragedies! Heavens to Murgatroyd, even! Those are lies, yo! You've got to dispel the lies and get to know God better.

Here's the truth. Often, you miss or fail to recognize the answers to your prayers, and thus, an increase in your faith, because you're looking for the answer to look exactly like the way you prayed for it every single time. You must get to a deeper point of spiritual growth, spiritual maturity, and understanding of who God is ([John 4.24](#), [Psalm 84.11](#)). Because sometimes, what you've prayed and asked God for will look exactly like what you've prayed for. But, guess what? Sometimes it won't.

Remember, that's why you've got to pray and ask for eyes to see, and ears to hear ([1 Samuel 3.1-10](#)). Do you detect a theme here when it comes to faith? **Pray about everything.** Yes, even pray about having more and increasing your faith! It will increase your faith!

## Faith Infusion Scripture:

**1 Thessalonians 5.16-18** 16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

## DAY 4

When you pray, you've got to have confident, bold assuredness, and faith, that when you pray, as long as your prayers line up with God's will for us, that what you've asked of God is done. Not kinda, sorta, maybe done. But, done done. Complete. Stick a fork in it, done. Like, get to shoutin' now, 'cause it's done, done! Our heavenly Father wants to do great things for you. It's one of the reasons you can ask BIG things of God and why you can trust him with those BIG things. So when it comes to God, go BIG or go home!

If you want to increase your faith today, pray and ask God for something that lines up with his will for your life. Maybe something like, "God, what's your will for my life?" Or, if that's too much for you to chew on, it's all good. Try this instead, "God, what's your will for me today?"

If you want to increase your faith today, pray and ask God for something that lines up with his will for a situation you're facing ("God, what's your will for this situation that I'm facing?"), or for other people and events happening around you. Then, write it down in your prayer journal, so YOU don't forget what you asked for – God won't! You will discover that God is faithful to do what he said he would do ([2 Samuel 7.25](#); [Nehemiah 1.11](#), [Luke 1.37-38](#)).

## Faith Infusion Scriptures:

**1 John 5.14-15** 14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

**Jeremiah 1.11-12** 11 Then the Lord said to me, "Look, Jeremiah! What do you see?" And I replied, "I see a branch from an almond tree."

12 And the Lord said, "That's right, and it means that I am watching, [c]and I will certainly carry out all my plans."

**1 Kings 8.56** Not one word has failed of all the wonderful promises...

**John 16.13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

## DAY 5

Your faith is tied to your mouth. There's power in your mouth. Yes, to chew your food, but there's also power to establish God's promises in your life and see them come to fruition for you. However, there's a catch: you've got to speak the right things. As Christians, many of us have either said or heard someone quote **Proverbs 18.21**, "The tongue has the power of life and death..."

Around our home, my wife and I do our best to "speak life". That is, we speak over each other, and to each other what God's word says about us, our kids, our work, and pretty much everything going on around us in this world. It's not always easy, though. Sometimes, we fall back into old habits of speaking "death" to a situation you're facing, and yes, even to each other.

No, we don't wish death on each other. At times though, we let our emotions get the better of us and we say something that doesn't line up with what God and his word says about the other person. When this happens, we apologize to each other, and seek and receive the other person's and God's forgiveness ([1 Peter 3.7](#); [Matthew 6.14-15](#); [Colossians 3.13](#), [Ephesians 4.31-32](#)) Then, we move forward. No need to belabor what's truly been forgiven.

You see how easy it could be for your tongues to ruin your marriage, other relationships, and anything else you need to accomplish? It's easy to fall into the trap of, "I'm offended" or, "I've got a right to complain" or, "I'm just telling the truth". You're right. You *do* have a right to complain. But, is your complaining going to change the situation or make it better in some way?

Yes, you may just be telling the *truth*. But, whose truth is it? Your truth or the truth of God's word? You might say that these are just little things. And they may seem to be, but let me ask you a question. Are you willing to let these little things grow into big things?

Unfortunately, that's what many of us do. It's how we were taught, or it's a habit we picked up along the way as we grew and matured. Most of us grow up speaking flippantly about people, their behavior, things around us, and what we read on the internet, social media, and hear on the news. Often, we don't mean any harm, but in

fact, that's exactly what you're causing when we don't speak the life-giving power of God's word over and about people and things, along with praying for them.

That's why we must always choose to say what God says about people and things. The word of God must be the final authority for us. I know what you're thinking. You're saying, "But, Eric. What about asking the opinions of other people? Shouldn't I do that, too?" The short answer is, yes, you should. But, you shouldn't just seek opinions and wisdom from everyone, because some folk have unhelpful opinions, and don't have much wisdom either. Yes, we should seek godly, wise counsel ([Proverbs 3.7](#), [11.14](#), [15.22](#), [19.20-21](#), [24.6-8](#)). We should ask these folk to pray for us and with us.

**\*ESA (Eric Service Announcement):** This is why it is critically important to be and live in community with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need each other and we're better together! And **ALWAYS** take what you receive from them, and brush it up against the word of God. If it lines up with God's word, you're in business! If it doesn't, don't be discouraged or get angry at folk. Remember, a pointed word from a good friend is better than many kisses from an enemy ([Proverbs 27.5-6](#)). What you've got to do is pray and ask God more questions about what he needs you to know. This is cool, too, because it's a win for you in that God loves you enough to help you grow even more! Winner winner, chicken dinner! Ok, back to your regularly scheduled programming on getting wisdom.\*

We must also seek and pray for wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells us that he, the Holy Spirit, will guide us into all of the truth ([John 16.13](#)). One of the things I pray for is ears to hear ([1 Samuel 3.1-10](#)), because I want to hear God clearly. Consistently doing these things will greatly increase your faith.

### **Faith Infusion Scripture:**

**Isaiah 55.10-11 10** "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.

**11** It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

**Job 22.28** Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

**Proverbs 16.3 [a]** Commit your works to the Lord [submit and trust them to Him], And your plans will succeed [if you respond to His will and guidance].

**Psalm 37.4** Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

**Isaiah 55.10-11 10** "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.

**11** It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

## DAY 6

I really like the Mission Impossible movies, starring Tom Cruise. He plays Ethan Hunt, a super spy who travels the world thwarting the terrible tactics of thugs, expeditiously escaping evil, and surreptitiously saving all of mankind! That is, if he chooses to accept his mission. Like Ethan, sometimes, what we see in front of us seems to be impossible. What you're believing and asking God for (or what He's asking us to do) seems like it's, well, impossible. .

It's too big, we say. It's overwhelming. Or, you've been praying for weeks, months, years, or even decades, but we haven't seen the promise become reality yet. That can be very disheartening. Ok, let's be real. We don't pray that long, maaaaaan!

We pray for minutes. More like, seconds. And then, because we are truly, shall we say, special people, we have the audacious, audacity to get angry or be disappointed, because God has not answered our 43.03s prayer that we prayed that one time. We are some wild and funny folk!

Faith is an exercise in patience and waiting. So as cute as it is, your 43s prayer isn't going to cut it. While you're waiting, you're not just sitting around doing nothing. Our waiting is an active waiting. We should be putting our hands to the plow, as it were.

Here's what King Solomon tells us in **Ecclesiastes 9.10**, "*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*" While you're waiting for God to answer, you've got to keep working with all of our might. We should also spend our waiting time praying, praising, and thanking God.

For some of what you're praying and asking God for, it's going to take a while. Remember, God is readying us. Making sure we are where he needs us to be so we can receive it. Although it may take some time to show up in our lives, God will personally see to it that we get what you've asked him for. We would do well to remember this when we pray: Delayed but not denied.

### **Faith Infusion Scriptures:**

**Numbers 23.19-20 19** God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? **20** Listen, I received a command to bless; God has blessed, and I cannot reverse it!

**Hebrew 10.35-36 35** So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! **36** Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

**Mark 9.23 23** "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

**Luke 1.37 37** For with God nothing shall be impossible.

**Genesis 18.14** Is anything too hard for the Lord?

### **DAY 7**

**Bonus:** People often ask me what I do to increase my faith and hear God clearly. The simple answer is I pray. A lot. And, I listen. A lot. I realize, though, that people need and want steps to help them with this. So, I've included in here something that I use when I teach my class on discovering your calling and purpose, [START A F.I.R.E. - 4 Intelligent Ways To Live Your Best Life Now!](#) It's called **5 Quiet Minutes**. It will help you get started on your exciting and eternally rewarding journey of hearing God for yourself.

**5 Quiet Minutes.** It's hard to obtain clarity when you're constantly surrounded by noise. You've got to get quiet so you can get clear and hear what God is saying to you. For the next **7 days**, intentionally make space in your life for at least **5 Quiet Minutes a day** to pray and get quiet with God.

If you've never done this before, it's going to take you some time to get used to it. It's going to take discipline. So here's a few tips to help you do this successfully.

1. Do not take any electronic devices with you as you go into your quiet place.
2. Only take a journal (yes, a physical one) and a pen or pencil with you and write down what you hear. Even if you're unsure if you've heard correctly.
3. Do not leave your quiet place before your 5 minutes has passed.
4. Do not get frustrated if you don't hear anything. Remember, this is new. It takes time for us to adjust to doing new things.
5. At the end of your **5 Quiet Minutes** each day, write down what you think you may be hearing.
6. Repeat these steps for 21 days. Every 7 days, evaluate (write down) the progress you've made.
7. To succeed in this, **it's imperative that you partner with someone** for this exercise. You need someone to hold you accountable in this.
8. Make your **5 Quiet Minutes** a daily habit. When you do, your relationship with your heavenly Father will become more real and more important to you.

#### **WHAT'S NEXT:**

For my next trick, I'm going to pull a rabbit out of a hat! I'm kidding! Maybe. Seriously though, I want to give you a sneak peek into what we're going to do next. Ready for our next devo (who just said, "Whip it good?!")? Good. Because, we're going to learn how to battle.

Get ready to put on the whole armor of God so you can take the fight to the enemy, stand strong against his attacks, and win every single battle you face! Yes, I said it. When you put on the whole armor of God, you will win EVERY battle! EVERY TIME!

**Speaking Life Into *Your Existence*™,**

**Eric**