

## The Faith that Never Fails

In today's world, we hear a lot about our faith, or the lack of it. We find little meaning in faith, because by modern day teachings, its definition has been greatly distorted. If you stopped to ask yourself exactly what faith is, you'd probably find yourself saying, "Faith is.....believing." That answer, is why most Christians today walk around with very little faith at all. They lose faith, because they never understood faith in the first place.

One of the most devastating things that a person can experience is when they "believe" in something, and they end up disappointed when what they believed in doesn't prove itself to be true. Many Christians are "believing" in a lot of things, yet, too many are believing in their "believing," or having faith in their faith, instead of having faith in their God. If you're struggling with faith, you'll want to read on and understand what true faith is. If you're looking for faith to have any meaning and power in your life, then you must understand what faith is, according to the Word of God.

## Faith Is

We can't even BEGIN to look at faith in our own lives until we first understand what it IS and what it is NOT. What is faith to you? Today's world is consumed with the idea that "Faith" is defined as the power that comes through "believing." Maybe *you* think FAITH is BELIEVING IN God,..... but Scriptures say that "Even the demons believe that there is one God- and shudder." You see, it's not enough to believe there *is* a God- faith is much more than that. We can look around us and realize, very easily, that there is a Creator of all that exists. Believing IN God takes no amount of faith at ALL!....it is a fact! Listen....**Faith does not make God real....God is real...*Faith is our response to a REAL God ...who has made himself known to us throughout history.*** You don't have to go visit the North or South Pole to know that they exist. YOU haven't seen them, but you accept, by faith, that they ARE real and you take others' word for it. We don't understand or SEE a lot of things, but we accept them....BY FAITH. Just because we don't fully understand God and His ways, just because we can't see Him face to face, doesn't mean that He is not real and is not at work in your life!

Now, many people struggle to have a clear understanding of faith, and the problem is that, teachings on faith have been greatly distorted....to the point that faith, has lost its true meaning. Faith has been reduced to nothing more than having hope for what we want in life...and THEN, when we don't get what we wanted, what we had faith in, we are told we just didn't have enough faith. We're constantly hearing.... that our

faith can “move mountains, remove the obstacles in our life, and give us an abundant life.” The TRUTH is....contrary to popular belief ....**THE POWER IS NOT IN YOUR FAITH, THE POWER IS IN YOUR GOD.** Too often, we get carried away with the teaching of “if you believe, you will receive.” So many teachings have taught on unbiblical grounds, that “if we just pray for what we want and if we earnestly believe, there would be no doubt we would get it- and if we don’t get it, then we just didn’t believe enough.” But we must understand Scripture in its context of God’s great plan. God has a plan for the Universe and He has a plan for YOUR life, every single detail of it. But, we must understand that our lives must fit within His will and we must live according to it. There is so much confusion when it comes to faith and “believing” God, that we can’t help but rush to the question, “Can we count on God to answer our prayers, OR NOT?” The short answer is... “WE DEFINITELY CAN!” If we are truly coming to God in faith, believing in Christ as our Savior, then we can EXPECT dynamic answers to prayer. Notice, I said, “Dynamic.” God’s greater plan and His plan for our lives consist of constant change and growth. In trusting God, we must clearly understand that His answer to prayers through our faith, MAY NOT give us exactly what we want, when we want it. If we trust God, then we must clearly believe Isaiah 55:8 and 9 that says,

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Do you believe that? Or do you believe if God would just answer your prayers in the time you’ve asked and the way you’ve asked, you’d be completely satisfied.

There are so many people clinging to the promise of Hebrews 11:1 that says, “*Now faith is the substances of thing hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” This Scripture is taken out of context and Christians cling to it in the flesh. People are often taught that if they will have a “positive attitude” about their situation, if they will start “believing that their situation will change,” then God will give them what they ask for. This is the GREATEST set up for GREAT disappointment. If we are to have TRUE faith in God, then we’re going to have to come to a place of AGREEING with GOD’S WORD and realizing, we don’t have all the answers....we don’t know what’s best....but our Heavenly Father does and He has a plan for good. We can’t cling to part of the Word and not others. We can’t trust God in SOME things and NOT in others. We must understand and believe that God’s wisdom and knowledge is far above ours and when He listens to our prayers, He must take many factors into account. God tells us to BOLDY and CONFIDENTLY bring our petitions before Him, because when we do so, we are bringing our lives before the God of the Universe. This alone, shows our faith and trust in the Almighty God. This is our faith IN ACTION.

## **Faith In Action**

Faith in action simply trusts God. Our flawed view of faith sees faith as something which allows us to manipulate God in order to get **what** we want, **when** we want it, ***and that is not faith.*** **Faith surrenders our will, to God’s.**

We find the **greatest example** of TRUE faith in God in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus prayed 3X that God, “take His cup away.” **Three times** He

prayed, *“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”* Jesus begged God to answer His prayer, that He would not have to die in that way, yet He prayed with TRUE faith that said in the end .....He desired that God’s will be done. And then, when God did not answer His prayer in the way that He wanted, in the time that He wanted, He put His faith in action and summoned his disciples to move forward in God’s plan. Jesus willingly and faithfully walked forward in God’s will. Can we not do the same? When God chooses not to remove pain or suffering that we are going through in our life....can we walk forward in faith, assured that God is for us???? Ask yourself the question, “Does my faith in God trust Him to be with me, sustain me, and strengthen me in times of trouble; NOT just rescue me from them?” It’s easy for us to believe God when life is going according to our plans, but when we’re faced with failures, disappointments, and tragedies .....storms of life.....we can find Jesus, standing before us, asking, just as He did to His Disciples on the sea of Galilee, asking “Where is Your faith?????” And now that you have a clearer understanding of what faith is...you can begin to answer that question.

Faith ...**true faith**....believes in God **and** trusts Him to the point that it TRUSTS completely in Him for all things, at all times. True faith believes that God’s will is greater than our own and TRUSTS in Him completely that His plans are for good. When we begin *believing that our “BELIEVING”* will bring about the changes in our life, then we have no TRUE FAITH. We find ourselves claiming Scriptures like Mark 11:24 which says, *“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, “believe that you receive them, and you will have them” -believe and you will receive.”* BUT we must FIRST remember HOW Jesus told us to pray....the Lord’s prayer, our prayers are to

consist of more than our needs and wants....our prayers are to be brought before the Almighty God with an attitude that says, “*Thy Will be done!*” We must keep God’s Word in the context in which it was written.

God doesn’t need to see your faith in your faith....or your faith in your circumstances....He doesn’t need to see your “positive” attitude. He needs to see your TRUST IN HIM. Whatever you’re asking God to do, HE CAN DO, the question is, do you believe HE CAN????.... without doubting. Faith trusts God in the MIDST of doubt and uncertainty NOT in the ABSENCE of them.

We don’t want to place ourselves in the position of God. God *may* just answer your prayer, in the way you want, in the time you want, and you can rest assured....when you decide to pray in that way, you are declaring that you know better than God what is needed in your life..... As a result, you will be quick to discover that you have no ability to know better than God. Faith TRUSTS GOD to know what is best. Faith places your hopes, dreams, and desires, at His feet and allows Him to fulfill those according to HIS WILL and HIS PURPOSES.

## True Faith

Here’s the problem today, when those who believe in this “POWER of FAITH,” do not see God’s answers to their faith, their faith fails and they suddenly find themselves with no faith in God.... Wondering if He exists and if He is who He says He is. Many will fall away from God because they BELIEVED Him to do all that they had asked, they BELIEVED Him to rescue them in the way they wanted, in the timing they wanted, and

He didn't. We set time limits on God. AND our soul cries out, "He could have been there and He wasn't, He could have done something, and He didn't." We so easily give up on God- we should thank Him that He does not give up on us in the same way. God is faithful, even when we are not. So do you trust God enough to believe in His Word even when it contradicts what you see?

TRUE FAITH is not just an abstract concept.....it's not something that just happens in your soul, it **TRANSFORMS your life**. Those around you will stand in awe as your life is being thrown into the fiery furnace and you walk around in daily life as though the flames are not harming you.

Your faith is not TRUE FAITH..... it is never complete..... until it transforms your actions. James 2:20 says, "Faith without works is dead." Our faith is ultimately God's work in us. TRUE faith involves our heart, mind, soul, and strength. True faith is where our BELIEF transforms our ACTIONS. True faith goes to work, it transforms our perspective into God's perspective and sees things from God's point of view, not our own. And when your faith is seen in action, when you walk confidently into the fire...knowing Your God is with you, God will see to it that He keeps your life from complete destruction. **So, faith IS: TRUSTING GOD; trusting His ways and His will above our own.** Hebrews 11:1 tells us:

*"NOW Faith is the assurance (the confirmation) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].*

God gives us SOME proof, He's given us each a measure of FAITH....and then it is up to us, to choose faith, going forward, to keep stepping out, to keep trusting, ....IN

HIM...having confidence in the Promises He has made... and believing that He is at work in our lives,... without necessarily seeing and understanding it all.

As we step out in faith, as we begin to trust God, we find....we are faced with doubt...and SO, we cry out just as in Mark 9:24, "*Lord I DO believe, help my unbelief*"....or as in the Amplified version of the bible it says, "*Lord, I believe! [Constantly] help my weakness of faith!*" This cry came from a father who needed his ill son made well...and he was speaking to Jesus...*directly*. Listen, God is well aware that we do not have perfect faith, and He knows of the spiritual battle that rages within us. This is why Jesus said, "*All you need is the faith of a mustard seed.*" A mustard seed can GROW!!!! If you will continually seek the nourishment you need, Living Water, from Jesus, your faith WILL grow. God WILL HELP YOUR UNBELIEF. Don't be afraid to go to Him and tell Him you are lacking faith!!!! Jesus healed this man's son, regardless of Him admitting His "unbelief." Listen, He already knows your lack of faith....He wants you to bring it before Him...He wants you to give Him the opportunity to make what little faith you have in Him...GROW! God's greatest desire is for you to know Him, for you to Trust Him, if you don't..... you will never REALLY know Him and His will.... AND You will miss out on God's great purpose for your life. Because God, out of love, has given us each free will....He is asking You, to step out in faith, faith in Him, and take action,.....surrendering your will for His. Why do we find it easier to believe in ourselves, than to believe in God?

## Faith Is Not

If we're going to discuss what Faith is, then it is wise to understand what it is NOT....and so, if Faith is an act of the will.....then faith is NOT a "feeling." IT IS a CHOICE! We clearly saw this choice in the Garden of Gethsemane. The reason we have so many discouraged and disappointed Christians today is that they have confused faith with a feeling.....and because of that, they experience GREAT uncertainty. They wait for a "feeling" of faith and what they find is that there is NO CERTAINTY, there is NO TRUE HOPE in our feelings. Our "feelings" can actually deceive us....but you've probably learned that in your life....we all have. Faith is going to require a decision to be made. It is a decision that must be made on a minute by minute basis! Faith is vital to our walk with God and it's not just trusting God when we "feel" like it. It's not just trusting God when He gives us some indication that tells us He's working on our problems. Faith believes in what it CANNOT see. Ask yourself, "*Does my faith depend on my feelings, or on God's Truth?*" Jesus trusted God, but He was obviously faced with doubt when He asked God to take His cup away, He felt there MUST be another way. And the answer was that there was not. LISTEN! Jesus didn't "feel" like dying on the Cross..... BUT He walked forward in faith; He made the choice to TRUST God. To TRUST in HIS WILL in HIS WAYS, REGARDLESS of His "feelings!"

So, as you're faced with things in your life that you can't understand, struggling with circumstances that are causing you to feel hopeless, bring it to God. Allow your

weakness to be turned to strength by an Almighty God. Tell Him you are lacking faith and allow Him to show you His strength. Give Him the opportunity to show you what HE can do when you completely place your trust in Him in all things....at all times.

## **Faith In The Fire**

Are you struggling in life? Do you feel hopeless... and consumed with despair? Do you look at your life, unsure of what tomorrow holds and uncertain as to whether or not you have the strength to face another day? If you're a Christian, and you're facing these struggles, then you more than likely have another burden within you.....you know, the burden and daily inner condemnation, that says "as a Christian, you're not supposed to feel this way." We find ourselves experiencing defeat or simply surrendering before the true battle even begins.

If you feel as though you're in a pit and can't get out, then there are a few questions that God has for your heart. For all the questions we have for God, *He has questions for us too*. If you're constantly feeling as though there is no hope, then ask yourself if you've ever truly trusted God? If you have trusted God, when did you decide to STOP trusting Him? As you're faced with the gloom and doom of another day, ask yourself ...when did you decide God was not adequate? Let me ask you this, "If you're so consumed with despair, when did you declare that God IS NOT sufficient?"... because if you're daily consumed with hopelessness.....that's exactly what you've done.

It's quite easy to lose hope and to claim that God is not readily available in your life when you are surrounded with the ideologies of this world....you've heard them many times, you know, "I'll believe it when I see it." Or the famous self centered demand and question, "What have you done for me lately?" As we are consumed with a culture that insists "*It's all about me.....*we can get fast food drive thru service that says, "Have it YOUR way!" You will find yourself living a life of uncertainty and overwhelming hopelessness when you give into the flesh and decide that "you're NOT seeing God working in your life...and Jesus didn't accomplish what He came to do." By living daily in fear and despair, we declare that God isn't doing His job. ... He's failing and He doesn't care. If He did care, why would He allow us to suffer? Why would He allow us to experience pain in which even our tears become insufficient?

It is at this moment, when you are on your knees, begging for mercy, begging for God to show up, that you open your eyes...and see Jesus looking at YOU... asking the question, "Where is Your Faith?" So what is your answer? When is the last time you saw your faith? Was it the last time life was going ...according to your wants and desires? Did you have GREAT faith when God was allowing everything in your life to go as YOU desired? It's easy to trust God when life is going according to OUR plan...but what about when our lives must go according to God's plan? What then? Will our faith stand the test? When God's plans require pain and suffering, just as they did in the life of Christ, will we walk forward in faith, trusting God and His plan....just as Jesus did? *Where would we be, if He hadn't?*

Faith is trusting God. Take any Scripture in the Bible that contains the word "faith" and substitute the word "trust," and you will have a new understanding of what

God means by “faith.” The literal translation of the word faith in the Scriptures is “trust.” So, when we’re faced with the great uncertainties in our lives, when we’re struggling with fear and despair, there is one thing, and one thing only that we are lacking..... It’s faith.

Don’t settle for what others say about your situation, don’t settle for what you FEEL about your situation, and for goodness sakes....don’t believe what Satan says about your situation!!! You are to do one thing, TRUST in what God says about your situations in life. God has something to say about EVERYTHING in your life...don’t be deceived into thinking that God’s Word is just “not with the times”...or that “His Word doesn’t address the specifics of what you’re going through.” You can be certain...if you will SEEK YOU WILL FIND. ....So,..... what does God say???

You say: “It’s impossible”  
God says: All things are possible  
(Luke 18:27)

You say: “I’m too tired”  
God says: I will give you rest  
(Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: “Nobody really loves me”  
God says: I love you  
(John 3:16 & John 3:34)

You say: “I can’t go on”  
God says: My grace is sufficient  
(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: “I can’t figure things out”  
God says: I will direct your steps  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: “I can’t do it”  
God says: You can do all things  
(Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am able

(II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I Forgive you

(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage"

God says: I will supply all your needs

(Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear

(II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME

(I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you

(Hebrews 13:5)

When you feel as though you're walking through the valley of death, God is telling you to look up to the mountain in front of you....Faith in Him will take you to the top. But it's going to require trusting Him every step of the way.

**We must have a clear understanding about faith in our lives. Faith is not trusting God in the absence of anxiety and despair, it's trusting God in the midst of it.** I don't think there is any situation throughout history where "trust is not tested." Without a test....there would truly be no need for trust and we could have certainty at all times. But we live in a world where there is *constant* uncertainty. We live life based upon probabilities instead of trusting in the certainty of God's Promises. We figure we will probably wake up tomorrow, we will probably have a job to go to, we will probably be healthy, we will probably see our family soon, and we will probably have food to eat. But

what about when we're faced with the realities of life...the probability that those things MAY NOT be probable. Unexpected things happen, things go wrong, and carefully devised plans, fall apart; when they do, so do we. We can be moving forward in life, having faith in God and then all of a sudden, we find our lives thrown into a fiery furnace. The fire in which our faith is tested becomes too hot and we begin to take drastic measures to keep from feeling the heat of the flames. Which is why the world is consumed with reaching for alcohol, drugs, over working, television, overeating, and addiction after addiction in order to cope...in order to numb the pain. Yet what we find is that those things only fan the flames.

Life is uncertain, we can't change that, we live in a fallen world. But we can change our response to it by trusting in an Almighty God who has plans for good. We can walk into the fiery furnace, have our faith tested, and come forth with no smell of smoke on us, unharmed by the flames. AND as a result, God WILL be glorified and we can come to know God in a more intimate way than we could ever have imagined.

You have probably heard the Biblical account of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego ....the men who walked into the fiery furnace at the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar. The King wanted them to bow down and worship his god, but they refused. What many miss in this account, is the heart of the message. In Daniel 3:17-18 we read,

*“If that is the case, our God whom we serve IS ABLE TO DELIVER us from the burning fiery furnace, AND HE WILL DELIVER US FROM YOUR HAND, O King. **BUT IF NOT**, let it be known to you, o king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

The key to this message, is the “BUT IF NOT,” part. They declared in faith that God was ABLE to deliver them, they declared that HE WOULD deliver them, but they also showed TRUE FAITH by saying, “BUT IF NOT.” They basically said, they trusted in God’s will, not their own. They clearly understood that God could dramatically intervene if it was His will, but they also clearly understood that it was in God’s jurisdiction. They knew that there may be a very good reason why He would NOT....and they COMPLETELY trusted God! And from this account, we see that in their showing of TRUE faith, God delivered them. *But once again*, NOTICE....**God allowed them to WALK INTO THE FIRE!!!!** The men prayed, and left the whole situation in the palm of God’s hands. They were certain that their God had heard them, and they walked forward in faith. They put their faith into action. And God came through. But take a second look at this example....**God showed up** IN the furnace!

We find that the King saw **four** men walking around in the fire, not three and he described them as “**unbound**” and “**unharm**ed,” and the fourth looked like a son of the gods; when the King ordered the men to come out, he saw that **the fire had not harmed them, there was no hair on their head singed, their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them;** the King was amazed that they trusted in their God so much that they were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own. We may not be worshiping a god made of gold; but are we worshiping our own hopes and dreams, our own expectations for our lives rather than God’s? What are we NOT willing to give up and set aside in order to show our faith in God? What is it in your life that you’re clinging to?

If you will walk into the fire, trusting God, people will see someone with you, the Son of God, your Savior walking with you. You see, there is no other explanation for your strength. God's grace will meet you right where you are .....His grace will meet your faith .....even if it's IN the fiery furnace. **When you believe AND TRUST....and respond to God in faith YOU will be “unbound” and “unharmd.” In the trials of your life, as the flames threaten to consume you, your faith will be met by your Savior. He is with you....always.**

Whatever it is you're facing in life, you can be certain that God is with you. In John 16:32, Jesus told His Disciples, *“Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”* Make this Scripture real in your life. When you feel as though everyone has abandoned you and your life is falling apart, declare as Jesus did....that **“YOU ARE NOT ALONE, God is with YOU!”** **That** is trusting God.

1 Peter 4:12 tells us, *“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you, but rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.”* Why should we not be surprised...because Jesus told us in John 16:33, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* Jesus is saying **TRUST Me!!!**

## Saving Faith

So let's think about what causes our faith to fail...or our faith to be shaken....

Mostly, we lose faith because Trusting God conflicts with human reason. We allow our *feelings* to overcome our faith. Often times, we just fail to see God at work in our circumstances. We declare just as Job did in chapter 23 verse 9 and 10, "*When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.*" We can't seem to find God...we wonder where He is and what He's doing, yet our faith must declare that as our faith is tested, we will be confident in our God, assured that we will come forth as gold.

We can also lose faith because we listen to negative voices, both inwardly and outwardly. Even well meaning friends or family, even strangers may have VERY good intentions, yet they lead us to a place of questioning our faith in God. We find this example too in the book of Job, when Job's wife declared, "*Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!*" We'd all agree, that wasn't good advice, it's a good thing Job held onto his faith.

We can find our faith failing when we are uncertain of God's ways and unclear about His Promises for our lives. When we do not have a clear understanding of what God has promised for our situation...if we're not claiming any promises in our lives, then we begin listening to the lies of the enemy and we begin to spiral out of control into a

web of destruction. Whenever we are faced with despair and hopelessness, we must run to God. He's waiting...He's waiting to see YOUR trust in Him, that He is available and able to handle all that your life holds. When you're trusting God, you're bringing everything in your life before His throne and laying it at His feet. Great faith is shown, when you give your situation to God and turn and walk away; entrusting it all to His care.

*One of the most common ways* in which our faith fails is that we're trusting in our timetable and NOT God's. We tend to believe that if God doesn't show up when we wanted Him to and in the way we wanted Him to, then He's failed us... and our faith begins to waver. We cling to the flesh and declare, "We want it OUR way." Know this.....the only way that is worth anything at all, is God's way. His way is perfect....every time. Our faith must trust God regardless of how things might seem, regardless of what is revealed to the senses. Faith does not walk by sight. Our faith must see Jesus in the fiery furnace without really seeing Him, just trusting that He is there. Our faith must declare that no matter how life might appear, God is in control and has a plan for good. When we're faced with doubt, we must cling to God's Promises like never before, declaring them, believing in them, as we step forward in faith in the flames of the fire. We must be assured that God not only goes with us, He goes before us, and more often than not, if you can't see Him...if He's not ahead of you and He's not beside you...you can rest assured, He's carrying you.

We can learn a lot about faith throughout the Bible. We can see great men and women of faith that trusted God even to their death and we wonder, "How can we have faith like that?" How is it that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, could walk so readily into a fiery furnace? Let us look at three reasons and then apply them to our own lives.

For one, they knew that God was sovereign. There was a clear message they gave to King Nebuchadnezzar when they said, “The God we serve is able to save us.” This was no statement to be “showy..” this was a clear statement of faith...this was faith in the fire. It was a firm conviction of a sovereign God in the midst of everything that was to the contrary. They were entrusting their lives to God as they obeyed Him to not worship any other God’s but Him. So let’s look at our own lives....are we declaring the same? Whatever trial or tribulation you are facing, are you declaring that “YOUR GOD is able to save you?” And are you further declaring that “EVEN IF HE DOES NOT....” You will still walk forward in faith. Dear friend, the only faith that will never fail, is the faith that is tested by the fire. Does yours stand the test?

The second reason these men were able to stand firm in their faith was because they knew the Scriptures, they obeyed God’s Word when they would not bow down to another God. If we are to make good decisions for our life, if we are to keep ourselves from pits of despair, we must be confident and obedient to what the Word of God says. And if we don’t know what God says about our situation, we must seek after Him to find out. You can rest assured that God ALWAYS has something to say about every detail of our lives. Psalm 37:23 tells us *“The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives.”* We must trust in God’s Word to lead, guide, and direct us...believing that His Word is trustworthy and has authority over all that we will face in life.

The last great strength of these men’s faith was that they were willing to die for what they believed. They were willing to pay a price for obeying God. Too often, we know what Scripture says, we know what we’re supposed to do, but we are unwilling to

pay the price of obedience. Often times it's because maybe it just doesn't agree with our feelings, or we're afraid of what others might think. Whatever the excuse, we compromise. Our faith fails when we choose not to be obedient to God because of loss of popularity, or loneliness, or hardship. It is only if we are willing to be obedient, regardless of the price that must be paid that our faith will come forth as gold.

There's one message that God wants you to know in your life...no matter what you are facing....He is with you. Know this..... your faith WILL be tested. Satan said this to God when discussing the life of Job, *“Does Job fear God for nothing?” “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. BUT stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face and die.”* Our lives are no different. When there's a battle raging for our soul, our faith will be tested, we can be sure of it. Every time you venture out in life, every time you step out in faith, you WILL find something in your circumstances that, by your commonsense, will contradict your faith. As soon as you declare, “I believe that God shall supply all my needs,” the testing of your faith will begin. When our strength is gone, and we're unable to find hope, we must decide if we will keep stepping forward in faith, or simply accept defeat. ....Job kept seeking God, his faith stood the test, and he received twice as much in the second half of his life than he had in the first half. His faith and obedience was rewarded....God will reward YOUR faith...every single time.

So what is challenging your faith right now? This test will either prove your faith to be true, or it will prove it to be faith that fails. Our faith is an absolute trust in God...a trust

in Hebrews 13:5 that declares, “God will NEVER LEAVE ME NOR FORSAKE ME..and I will say with confidence that the Lord is my helper!”