

Signs: What it means to be a person of faith

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(First 2:30 of clip)

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

My righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” Hebrews 10:38

“Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Hebrews 10:32

Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. Hebrews 10:33,34

You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. Hebrews 10:34

So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! So, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. “For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away.” But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.” Hebrews 10:35-39 NLT

Three basics of the faith

1. Faith is believing in something even when you can’t see it

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

2. Faith knows that God can bring good things from bad things.

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

3. Faith has less to do with how strong your belief is and more to do with what you put your belief in.

Three controversial concepts about faith

1) The riskiest, most dangerous step you'll ever take is putting your faith in Jesus

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Hebrews 11:32-35a

Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goat-skins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Hebrews 11:35b-38

2) Failing at faith is not fatal.

"Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:30-31

"Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Matthew 8:25-26a

Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith.". Matthew 17:19-20a

Failing at faith is not fatal. What's fatal is not trying anything with your faith.

3) Three simple words to revolutionize your attitude about life

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:5

In what area of your life do you need to pray the prayer the apostles prayed: "Lord, increase my faith"?