A publication to inspire Christian young ladies in their walk with Christ

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

All Glorious Within

The Fruit of the Spirit is . . .

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, PART SIX

~ Faith ~

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2014

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by Laura Lesher

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by Trishia Plett

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Scriptures, poems, hymns,
devotionals, quotes, book review

“The King’s daughter is all glorious within . . .” Psalm 45:13
About All Glorious Within

All Glorious Within is a publication for Christian young ladies that began in January 2006. It is compiled, edited, and published three times per year by Karissa Hiebert. Co-editors are Abe and Bernice Hiebert, who approve and improve each issue, giving many suggestions and much valued advice.

We welcome new subscribers! If you have friends or relatives that might be interested in receiving All Glorious Within, you may request brochures or sample issues for them. Free brochures available upon request. Gift certificates also available.

Our Mission

Our goal is to provide conservative, wholesome reading material to inspire girls in their Christian walk, endeavoring to maintain the centrality of Jesus Christ. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know personally about them. Suggestions are appreciated!

If you come across anything in All Glorious Within that is unBiblical, opinionated, or does not pass the tests of Philippians 4:8 and Colossians 2:8, please let us know about it. (Note that we do not necessarily endorse every word of each article.)

This issue of this publication has been approved by the co-editors, my parents (Abe and Bernice Hiebert).

Submissions

We gladly welcome submissions . . . please send articles, poetry, testimonies, reviews, homemaking tips, recipes, wedding/baby announcements, and other such contributions! We do not publish advertisements.

All submissions must be approved by the co-editors (editor’s parents), and we ask that everything submitted be honoring to the Lord, based on the Word of God, and corresponding to Philippians 4:8. Please include information such as titles, authors, and publishers’ information, where applicable. Thank you.

Submission Deadline for Next Issue:
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To help cover costs of printing and postage, please include a donation with your order if possible. Thank you! Note — some issues may not be available.

Christian Chronicle (previous publication, 3-column format):
Volume 2, Issue 3: Infatuation vs. Integrity
Volume 2, Issue 4: Home Life
Volume 2, Issue 5: Humility

All Glorious Within (3-column format):
Volume 1, Issue 1: Speech
Volume 2, Issue 1: Discretion, Discernment
Volume 2, Issue 2: Reverence, Deference, Tolerance
Volume 2, Issue 3: Virtue
Volume 2, Issue 4: Neatness, Orderliness, Punctuality
Volume 3, Issue 1: Faithful Time Stewardship
Volume 3, Issue 2: Honesty, Integrity, Trustworthiness
Volume 3, Issue 3: Perseverance, Endurance, Diligence
Volume 3, Issue 4: Responsibility, Dependability, Consistency
Volume 4 Issue 1: Missions (Special Issue)
Volume 4, Issue 2: Determination, Purpose, Courage
Volume 5, Issue 1: Gracefulness, Appreciation
Volume 5, Issue 2: His Strength
Volume 5, Issue 3: Trials, Afflictions (Special Issue)
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Volume 6, Issue 3: Security, Confidence, Stability
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Volume 7, Issue 2: A Kept Heart
Volume 7, Issue 3: Wisdom

Fruit of the Spirit Series:
Volume 8, Issue 1: Love
Volume 8, Issue 2: Joy
Volume 8, Issue 3: Peace
Volume 9, Issue 1: Patience
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You Make the Trenches

C. H. Spurgeon

"And he said, Thus saith the Lord, Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts."
- II Kings 3:16-17

Three armies were perishing of thirst, and the Lord interposed. Although He sent neither cloud nor rain, yet He supplied an abundance of water. He is not dependent upon ordinary methods, but can surprise His people with novelties of wisdom and power. Thus are we made to see more of God than ordinary processes could have revealed. Although the Lord may not appear for us in the way we expect, or desire, or suppose, yet He will in some way or the other provide for us. It is a great blessing for us to be raised above looking to secondary causes, so that we may gaze into the face of the great First Cause.

Have we this day grace enough to make trenches into which the divine blessing may flow? Alas! we too often fail in the exhibition of true and practical faith. Let us this day be on the lookout for answers to prayer. As the child who went to a meeting to pray for rain took an umbrella with her, so let us truly and practically expect the Lord to bless us. Let us make the valley full of ditches and expect to see them filled.

Submitted by Elri Kruger (17) of South Africa

This issue’s fruit photo and muffins background: © Can Stock Photo Inc./StephanieFrey. Designing by Karissa H.

"By faith...we are to be rooted and established in our union with Christ. Faith is essential not only for the commencement, but also for the progress of the spiritual life. Abiding in Jesus can only be by faith." - Andrew Murray
Greetings in the name of our King and welcome to the 29th issue of All Glorious Within . . . and the sixth issue in our Fruit of the Spirit series! ☺

Each issue is intended to be not only a new magazine to browse through when you receive it, but also somewhat of a reference booklet for the future. Perhaps you will be looking for quotes, poems, Scriptures, ideas, etc. to help you put together a Bible study or article, or will face something in your life for which one of the themes we have covered would be an encouragement. We have back issues available as well, if you missed any in the Fruit of the Spirit series or would like one of the others (see page 2 for a list – note that not all prior issues may be available . . . we do have a surplus of the Fruit of the Spirit series, though).

Our theme this issue is Faith. In many other versions, it is translated “faithfulness.” According to Strong’s Concordance, the Greek word used means, “persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: – assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.” (FROM: ...to convince [by argument, true or false]; ... reflexively or passively to assent [to evidence or authority], to rely [by inward certainty]: – agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be [wax] content, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.)

“Faith” is used plenty in the New Testament, but otherwise is only found once in Deuteronomy and once in Habakkuk. The Hebrew word used in one means: “literally firmness; figuratively security; moral fidelity: – faith (-ful, -ly, -ness, [man]), set office, stability, steady, truly, truth, verily.” In the other: “Established, that is, (figuratively) trusty; also (abstractly) trustworthiness: – faith (-ful), truth.” FROM: “...properly to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; – hence assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful (of long continuance, stedfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified)... trust, turn to the right.”

I was really blessed by a thought on Hebrews 11:6 that I heard in a sermon recently – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” The speaker gave an example of getting up early to have quiet time with the Lord . . . I realized that if I’m not doing that, I’m not truly believing that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him, and therefore I am lacking faith and cannot please Him!

Faith has so many related terms: trust, confidence, belief, persuasion, expectation, and so much more. You may notice that the many articles in this issue are somewhat varied in their focus of themes. Whether you need a “small-things” faith, to take up your shield of faith, a “walking on the water” faith, faith to replace fear, faith in trying circumstances, faith as those who have gone on before us, works of faith, or what-if questions answered, may you find this issue to be a challenge and encouragement! ☺

~ Karissa

4 For contact information, please see inside cover. For subscription rates, please see back cover (page 40).
In a race that seems so hard to run... Lord I need a new infilling, Even so Lord Jesus come.” Jesus is coming back, but we are commanded to occupy till He comes. This means a small-things faith. The little things do matter. One snowflake is so TINY, yet many of them make beautiful heaps and drifts of snow that make hills fun to sled down or beautify winter-brown trees.

Consider with me a moment the life of Mary the mother of Jesus. A young girl named Mary chose to cultivate a relationship with her Creator long before she had any idea of GOD’S plan for her life.

Luke 1:38 – And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Place yourselves in her shoes. Imagine the suspicion and whispering that surely Mary realized would come of this. She was surrendered in that moment, though full of questions (see verse 34). She didn’t understand, but as she had probably been doing in small things, likely she chose to do it in this moment likewise. “Here I am, LORD. Let what You will, be so. I have a lot of ‘whys’, but I will choose to trust Your faithfulness.” (Luke 1:46-56) Read of her visit with her dear cousin Elisabeth. The same small (yet big) things faith runs on.

Stuck in a rut? Small things work. One step, One thought, One word, One deed. Seek Jesus. Be thankful. Open your eyes and heart to His goodness. Pray honestly. “Enjoy the little things in LIFE... For one day you’ll look back and realize they were the big things.” I Corinthians 1:27

Laura Lesher
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The fruit of the Spirit is . . . faith.

By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.—Without faith it is impossible to please Him.—He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.—Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.

Whose keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.—Faith worketh by love.—Faith without works is dead.

We walk by faith, not by sight.—I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.—Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.


Daily Light on the Daily Path, August 1st, Morning
Faith: Your Shield and Victory
by Trishia Plett

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Ephesians 6:16

Where is your shield? Ephesians 6:16 says we need to take it. Have you taken it, or are you attempting to stop and quench fiery darts with something other than the shield of faith?

For your overall safety and success on the battlefield for your soul, how essential is your shield of faith? On a scale of 0 to 10, 0 being useless and 10 being most important, where do you place the value of your faith? I John 5:4 says, “this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Without (the shield of) faith you are in a losing battle, but with it your battle is always victorious. Faith should be at the value of 10 on your scale. Do you value your shield, or have you laid it down because it was too heavy?

Yes, faith may seem heavy at times. When the fiery darts of doubt, frustration, fear, condemnation, and guilt are flying at you from every side, your flesh wants to give in; the fight is so intense that you can hardly raise your shield one more time to quench one more dart. Your arm “screams” in pain, your muscles feel as though they’re on fire, you cry out for relief from the battle but it seems as though the darts just shoot towards you in greater numbers. Heavy though it be, you raise your shield again.

The shield of faith never depreciates in value. Its usefulness, however, is determined by you, the soldier and bearer of it. Even when you are weak after a long, intense battle, faith – your shield – is just as useful as it was when you entered the battle full of strength and energy. Do you recognize that or does your shield of faith begin to feel too heavy and clumsy after several hours or maybe even days of constant use? Don’t consider sword fighting (quoting Scripture, for example) when the Saviour, your Commander, needs you to use your shield of faith.

Do not give up! Your sword, although very important, cannot prevent a fiery dart from lodging itself in your soul. Do not relax your hold on your shield. Do you feel weak? Jesus will be your strength; His strength is made PERFECT in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). When the fiery dart, “You’re too weak,” is flying toward you, raise the shield of faith and quench it, “Jesus Christ is my strength; through Him I am strong!” Pling! the dart drops down at your feet, useless. Victory won! “You’re still tired, so you’re weak,” shoots out from another side. The enemy has tried a new tactic; raise your shield, quench the fiery dart! Victory! The enemy of your soul never runs out of darts, but you need never drop your shield and become defeated.

Victory lies in faith (I John 5:4), and faith is from Jesus Christ (Heb. 12:2). Jesus Christ in us gives us power to stand (Ephesians 6:16)
11&13), not run about in anxiety and fear wondering from which angle the next dart will fly. Standing still isn’t a sign of weakness or fear. Standing still is boldness. When we stand still we are better able to hear our Saviour give us our battle commands. When we stand still we are more alert. When we stand still we intimidate our enemy because of our confidence. Part of Isaiah 30:15 says, “…in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.” When we have faith we do what God says even when the odds are against us. But when we lower our faith we are like the people Isaiah was prophesying to. We mount our swiftest horse and gallop away from the battle scene. In our haste we drop our shield, but in our terror we don’t realize our folly nor the greatness of our loss. We can hear our enemy thundering after us and we push our horse harder until finally all we hear is the steady rhythm of only our horse’s hoofbeats. If we were to look back we might see that our pursuer stopped where we hastily dropped our shield of faith. He’s back there gloating about our weakness, our fear, our lack of confidence. He knows that without our faith we’re defeated. Our shield is our most essential piece of armour. When we lose confidence in Jesus Christ, our Victory, we lose more than a battle. If you’ve dropped your shield of faith in your flight, how will you pick it up again?

Where’s your faith? Are you holding on firmly, or is your grasp weakening? Do not let go of your shield!

Fight the good fight of faith.

We were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.—Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.—Strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom thou hast defied.—God is my strength and power: . . . He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.—Our sufficiency is of God.

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.—Behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

The time would fail me to tell of [those] who through faith subdued kingdoms, . . . out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

I Tim. 6:12. 2 Cor. 7:5.–2 Ki. 6:16.–Eph. 6:10. I Sam. 17:45.–2 Sam. 22:33, 35.–2 Cor. 3:5, Ps. 34:7.–2Ki. 6:17. Heb. 11:32-34.

Daily Light on the Daily Path, March 5, evening

For contact information, please see inside cover. For subscription rates, please see back cover (page 40).
Encamped along the hills of light,  
Ye Christian soldiers, rise  
And press the battle ere the night  
Shall veil the glowing skies.  
Against the foe in vales below  
Let all our strength be hurled!  
Faith is the victory, we know,  
That overcomes the world.  

His banner over us is love,  
Our sword the Word of God;  
We tread the road the saints above  
With shouts of triumph trod.  
By faith, they like a whirlwind's breath,  
Swept on o'er every field;  
The faith by which they conquered death  
Is still our shining shield.  

On every hand the foe we find  
Drawn up in dread array;  
Let tents of ease be left behind,  
And onward to the fray.  
Salvation's helmet on each head,  
With truth all girt about,  
The earth shall tremble 'neath our tread,  
And echo with our shout.  
To him that overcomes the foe,  
White raiment shall be giv'n;  
Before the angels he shall know  
His name confessed in Heav'n.  
Then onward from the hill of light,  
Our hearts with love aflame,  
We'll vanquish all the hosts of night,  
In Jesus' conqu'ring Name.  

Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory!  
O glorious victory, that overcomes the world.  

Is there no way of escape for us when in trouble or distress? Must we just plod wearily through it all, and look for no relief? I rejoice to answer that there is a glorious way of escape for every one of us, if we will but mount up on wings, and fly away from it all to God. All creatures that have wings can escape from every snare that is set for them, if only they will fly high enough; and the soul that uses its wings can always find a sure 'way to escape' from all that can hurt of trouble it. What then are these wings? Their secret is contained in the words 'They that wait upon the Lord.' The soul that waits upon the Lord is the soul that is entirely surrendered to Him, and that trusts Him perfectly. Therefore we might name our wings the wings of Surrender and of Trust. If we will only surrender ourselves utterly to the Lord, and will trust Him perfectly, we shall find our souls 'mounting up with wings as eagles' to the 'heavenly places' in Christ Jesus, where earthly annoyances or sorrows have no power to disturb us.”  

The Way, the Truth, the Life Thou art.  
This, this I know; to this I cleave;  
The sweet new language of my heart,  
“Lord, I believe.”  
I have no doubts to bring to Thee;  
My doubt has fled; my faith is free.  

If your faith is in experiences, anything that happens is likely to upset that faith; but nothing can ever upset God or the almighty Reality of Redemption; base your faith on that, and you are as eternally secure as God.”  

Quotes

John H. Yates
Dear Sisters,

I was a little stuck when I was trying to write an article on faith. It just didn't flow and I couldn't finish it. A couple of days later, I saw a paper on someone's fridge with an illustration of a man on the ice. The caption read: “Peter finds his faith to be much stronger in the winter.” That really got me thinking.

I don’t believe the Bible is something to be taken lightly or made a joke of. The story of Peter walking on the water is a very real story that should probably cause us to seriously examine how deep our own faith really goes. Would we be willing to step out to walk on the water? It may seem like a trivial thing to us, since we’ve heard the story so many times since childhood. However, it was a total miracle. We can’t physically even walk on the surface of an inch of water! Here was Peter, not only on much deeper water, but also out there during a storm! We sometimes condemn Peter for losing focus and beginning to sink, but he must have had incredible faith to step out in the first place!

So, a cartoon of Peter walking on the ice is not something that particularly impresses me. However, there could be some thoughts we could draw from it.

1) How often would we be more willing to step out onto ice than water? Or, to put it differently, to step out into more certain, stable, and logical circumstances than uncertain, unknown, and seemingly unreasonable? Yes, you still need to be careful how you walk...
on ice, so you don’t slip, but it doesn’t take faith the way walking on water would!

2) Does a winter faith reflect a winter Christianity, also? If our faith isn’t strong enough to step out onto stormy water and walk toward Jesus, it surely doesn’t have the substance that it should have. If we’re choosing the ice, perhaps it’s a reflection of a cold, dry, and dying heart.

3) Yes, there are moments in our journey of faith where we may begin to sink, but re-focusing on the Lord and strengthening our faith in Him is essential to getting back up and continuing. Jesus had to help Peter, too, and said he was of little faith. In those times, our desire should be to have our faith increased, and to go on in the victory of faith.

4) When the heat of trials comes our way, we won’t be able to stand anyway if we’ve been attempting a winter faith. Circumstances, logic, and doubt are very precarious foundations, and as the trial grows hotter, that ice will melt right under our feet and threaten to drown us in the cold water. How much better it is to fix our eyes on Jesus and walk on the stormy water by faith – knowing that He will sustain us, He will yet calm the storm, and He will lead us across the water. Yes, storms will continue to come, but with Him as our guide, we know we can trust Him to bring us safely through them!

5) Winter faith doesn’t bring glory to God – anyone can walk on ice. Walking on the water is something that can only be done with faith and focus on the Lord. Those around us sometimes see the storms in our lives, and they are watching to see whether we will wait for the winter, or step out in faith immediately and walk on the water, “looking unto Jesus...” (Heb. 12:2).

Do YOU have a winter faith?

Karissa Hiebert (25) lives near Lowe Farm, MB with her parents and 5 of her 7 siblings. She studies midwifery from home and teaches piano, but enjoys many other things in life as well. Her desire is to live a life of true faith for the glory of God.

“Faith is the ceasing from all our natural efforts and all other dependence; faith is confessed helplessness casting itself upon God’s promise and claiming its fulfillment; faith is putting ourselves quietly into God’s hands for Him to do the work.” - Andrew Murray

“Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading.” - Oswald Chambers

“Faith is unutterable trust in God, trust which never dreams that He will not stand by us.” - Oswald Chambers

For Next Issue!
Do you have poems, quotes, devotionals, stories, or anything to share regarding meekness? Recipes, fruit photos, etc? Send them in by the end of March!
A family receives a call early one morning from a woman living miles away in another state. She says, "I read about your family through a magazine and I just wanted to ask you – what should my husband and I do? We can’t find a church home anywhere; we’re all alone and so discouraged. Can you help us?"

The doctors come out and break the sad news to the young couple, who just recently had a miscarriage with their first baby. "I’m sorry, but your wife just can’t possibly have children. She will never be able to bear children."

A teenage girl and her mother sit on the bed, watching the youngest member of the family, a baby girl, who is ill and suffering horribly from a vaccination shot. "Oh, Lord, are you going to take her home with You? Please help us to bear it!" is the thought that runs through the mother and the daughter as they cling to one another and cry.

Dear sisters, the scenarios that I have just described to you have really happened. These people find themselves face to face with a challenge – are they going to trust God, say “He is faithful!” in their hard situation, and look up at their Savior and not down at the circumstance? Or are they going to give in to defeat, bitterness, grief, despair, and look down at the circumstance instead of up at their Heavenly Father? The decision seems easy – “Of course the first choice is the one to make”, you might be thinking – but yet how hard it is for Christians to decide to make that choice!

David the psalmist often wrote about depending on God and just clinging to Him. He also wrote about the agony, the hardships, the grief that he experienced. In so many ways, I have been in the same place to say with David, “Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.” - Psalm 61:1-3. My heart has truly become overwhelmed when I faced predicaments that looked so difficult, and I’ve learned that the only way that I can overcome them is through the Lord Jesus Christ. We will only become overwhelmed when we try to conquer the situations without Christ, in our own feeble strength.

In the first scenario, we find a woman reaching out for help in an unusual way. This woman saw my name and read a little bit about our family through a magazine and called early one morning, out of the blue, to talk with my mother. She knew that we had experienced a long period of time before we had found a church, and wanted help and encouragement. They were in the same position that we had just recently gotten out of and our hearts just cried out with her. How many of you girls (and mothers and families) are facing this issue – of your family not being able to find a church or fellowship in your area? Of not finding any like-minded families nearby? I know that the number is amazingly big, and my heart goes out to all of you who are going through this right now!

I know what it is like; my family and I have been there! In some ways, we still are in that kind of situation. We moved to Kentucky in
November 1994, and we finally found a church home in the spring of 1997. In fact, we’ve never found a church in our state; we are now part of a wonderful tiny church in Tennessee (we live close to the state border). It was a very hard time for my family to go through those years of no fellowship with like-minded believers, but I wouldn’t have wanted to miss the blessings that our gracious Savior bestowed upon us then for anything! We learned so much more about God’s Word, about how important our family is, and how every conviction we have should come from God and the Bible, not from opinions of friends, fellow church members, our pastor, or other family members during this “alone on an island” season. Although we were living in a spiritually “dry” area, it was then that Jesus Christ went to work on us, molding and shaping us to conform to His image and become more like Him!

In our lives we have many different “seasons” – we have seasons of being with a large number of people serving the Lord, seasons of serving the Lord by ourselves, seasons of just resting and meditating upon the Word of God, and so on. God knows just what kind of “season” we need and when He sends one our way, especially a hard one, we need to go through it like a brave soldier. This way when we come out of it and look back we can say, “Through Jesus, I was able to come out a stronger, better Christian, closer to my Savior and more like Him. There is fruit in my life because of this season.” How sad it would be to have the Lord send us something in our lives to help us and make us grow in our walk with Him, and for us to just whine, cry, and complain. Or if we just sat down in defeat waiting until it was over, hoping we could get back to our “normal” life! We won’t become stronger in the faith, nor become closer to Him, if that’s how we act!

In the second scenario, we find a young couple facing a tragic circumstance, one of the hardest a newly-married couple can face. Here, they are told that they can never have children. This woman had a serious problem that prevented her from having the blessings that she and her husband so wanted to have. Her husband was a newly-saved Christian, and when the doctors told them the sad news, he said, “God is bigger than this! We must pray.” So this young couple and their church prayed for a whole year for God to heal this woman and to grant their desire for children.

Could you pray, with faith, for something that the world said was absolutely impossible to have, for a year, or six months, or even just one month? Could I pray with complete trust and faith? We might say, “God doesn’t perform miracles anymore” – but doesn’t Hebrews 13:8 say, “Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, and today, and forever”? After this couple had prayed earnestly and fervently for a year, the young woman went back to the doctors for some tests, and they were amazed! Her problem was gone – they couldn’t even see where it had been! God healed her, and not just to the point of stopping the problem, but healed her so thoroughly that the doctors couldn’t see any trace of the problem! This husband and wife then were blessed with children.

We see in Hebrews 11:11 that Sarah had faith that she would have a child because she “judged Him faithful who had promised.” This young couple, new in the faith, also regarded “Him faithful who had promised.” God has blessed them with six children. I know this family very well, for it is my own family! I was the baby so prayed for, and how wonderful it is for me to know that the Lord sent me as His answer to their prayers, when the world said that it was impossible! My mother is just like the woman in Psalms 113:9 – the Lord “maketh the barren...
woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children” – and she is truly a joyful mother of children! My parents can’t help but be reminded every day that our God is a God that hears and cares about us, that He is a faithful God, since my siblings and I are daily reminders of His faithfulness!

In the last scenario, there is a young girl and her mother watching a loved one suffer. This happened in the late summer of 1996, and this is my mother and I with my baby sister. Little Arianna was suffering because of a DPT/HIB vaccination shot that she had been given, and it nearly took her life. I’ve never seen one of my brothers or sisters so sick before; we have always had excellent health, and her sickness seems to be burned upon my memory.

I remember that night, when my mother and I were sitting on my bed watching her. For several days Arianna had been screaming, crying, burning with a high fever, and thrashing around, clawing at her skin as if to tear it off. Arianna would have times, though, when she would lie really still, scarcely moving at all, so white and limp in our arms. That night when Mom and I were sitting on the bed, I finally voiced my fears about losing her. That started my mother’s tears, as she admitted that yes, it was very possible that Arianna would die.

I don’t think I will ever forget the moment when we bowed our heads in prayer that night, with tears flowing and me clinging to my mother as tightly as I could. We gave Arianna up to the Lord, wanting so strongly for her to live, but yet wanting His will to be done. It was a time of deciding whether to trust Him and say “He is faithful”, or to give in to our fears and grief.

“But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.” - 2 Thessalonians 3:3. We had to trust in Him and believe in that verse. God did spare Arianna and has allowed her to stay with us, and with thankful hearts we are so glad that she has no side effects from that DPT and the reaction from it except for a little nervous “spasm”. How can I not be grateful? We gave her to God and we found Him, once again, to be faithful!

Now, will God always say “yes” to our prayers and requests? No, not always. Does He always answer our prayers? Yes, He always does. Isaiah 58:9a says, “Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am.” Even a “no” or a “just wait and trust on Me” from our Lord is an answer; He will never fail to answer you! When you cry out to your Heavenly Father, He says, “Here I am.” What a marvelous thought! Sometimes His answers are not what we want to hear and see, but one thing you will find out if you haven’t already – He does answer!

I am reminded of Psalm 145:18 – “The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him.” And in Psalm 138 David said, “In the day when I cried Thou answered me, and strengthenest me with strength in my soul.” (verse 3). The Lord is always ready and willing to answer and strengthen His children, for hasn’t He promised that He will “never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5)?

In John 11:41-42, Jesus lifted up his eyes and talked with His Father before commanding Lazarus forth from the grave. “Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I knew that Thou hearest Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” Here, we see the confidence we should have in knowing that our Father hears us.

Even when we are not trusting God like we should, 2 Timothy 2:13 says that, “If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny himself.” And what if we have
strayed away from our Lord? Does that change God’s faithfulness? We see that in Psalm 89:33, despite what David’s children may do – if they forsake God’s law, walk not in His judgments, break His statutes, or keep not His commandments – God says, “Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail” (emphasis added). Lamentations 3:23 exclaims, “Great is thy faithfulness!” and Psalm 36:5 declares, “Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.” Great indeed is our wonderful Redeemer’s faithfulness!

I’ve already mentioned 2 Thessalonians 3:3. Remember the first phrase of the verse? “But the Lord is faithful…” and that in itself is a powerful statement! When the trial you face seems too hard to bear, remember, “But the Lord is faithful, regardless of what happens!” If everything seems to be going wrong, keep in mind, “But the Lord is faithful, even during this!” When you can’t seem to see the “light at the end of the tunnel”, concerning a certain situation you’re going through, remember, “But the Lord is faithful!”

There is always a sunrise after a sunset. There’s always a dawning of a new day after a night of trouble (and one day there’s going to be a glorious dawning of a new day that will never end when Jesus Christ comes for His own!). Whatever "night" you are going through right now, don’t lose hope or give up the fight. When we strive to live in a way that is pleasing to Jesus Christ and serve Him, even in hard times, when those hard times are over, we’ll be able to sing with David, “I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth....” - Psalm 40:1-3.

We must not forget to praise and thank our Lord when He delivers us from the “horrible pit” and the “miry clay” of our past predicaments. We must also not forget that our Savior has already rescued us from death, and hell, and God’s coming wrath and judgment. God will take care of the ones whom He has redeemed! I am so grateful that Jesus Christ has brought me out of the pit and miry clay, set my feet on a rock and established my goings – He truly has put a “new song in my mouth”!

Psalm 92:1-2 reminds us that, “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praise unto Thy name, O most High: To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night.” And Isaiah 25:1 is a wonderful verse: “O Lord, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name; for Thou hast done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”

What God’s Word says is true, and you can put all of your trust in what it says. David, in Psalm 119:89, declared in confidence, “For ever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.” Jesus Christ Himself is the Word, and Revelation 19:11 and 13 says, “...He [Jesus Christ] that sat upon him was called Faithful and True... and His name is called The Word of God.” Revelation 21:5 assures us that the words of the Lord are faithful and true. Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Amidst the dark pathways of the valleys of trials, testings, and tribulations, God’s Word casts a light before you. He is the Light and will not suffer your foot to stumble in the darkness, when you’re following the Lord and keeping your eyes on Him. Sisters, never doubt the Word of the Lord, for it is faithful, true, and everlasting! “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.” - Isaiah 40:8 (emphasis added).
Psalm 62:8 says, “Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us”. Just pour out your heart before the Savior; cast all your cares upon Him; and trust that whatever situation comes along, whether big or small, that He is able to take care of you, your family, and the circumstances. He who has promised His children so much is not negligent concerning His promises! Let us “draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith…. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful which promised.” - Hebrews 10:22-23. For the Heavenly Father loves and cares for His own!

Building Yourself Up in the Faith
by Karissa Hiebert, May 2011

But ye, beloved, building yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21

We generally think of this in terms of building each other up, and the context probably does mean that. However, I’d like to take it a step further . . . building our own selves up in the faith. This is not at all intended to be an arrogant or self-centered statement. But to remain faithful, we need to be building ourselves up in the faith. (I Sam. 30:6 – David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.) The verses preceding this discuss that in the last time, there will be mockers who will walk after their own ungodly lusts, who separate themselves, are sensual, and have not the Spirit. We need to be sure we don’t become one of those . . . we need to be sure we are not walking in the flesh, but in the Spirit. We must remain constant in prayer. How can we build our own selves up in the faith?

- Hiding God’s Word in our heart (Ps. 119:11)
- Speaking to ourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19)
- Praying without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17) - oh the depths of that one!
- Applying self-discipline not to walk in the whims of the natural man, but in the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-8, Gal. 5:23-25)
- Exercising a spirit of thankfulness, gratefulness, contentment, rejoicing (I Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:11, Col. 3:15)
- Keeping our mind focused on/stayed on Christ and things that are pure, right, good, etc. (Phil 4:8, Isa. 26:3)
- Being obedient to the Lord/the light He gives (John 14:15, I John 1:7)
- Seeking Him (Matt. 6:33, Jer. 29:13)

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Fear or Faith

Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear grips our hearts, makes us feel self-conscious, nervous, worried, doubtful, and far away from God. Like any other fear, the “fear of man” can either be very obvious or extremely subtle.

Jesus came to break us free from the law of sin and death. With His Spirit as our guide, why do we ever struggle with fear? Fear stems from unbelief, a lack of trust in God.

When the disciples were in the ship with Jesus, and the great storm arose, they were afraid! The Savior was asleep, and the wind was tossing the ship, until it was nearly full of water. It may seem to us that they had a valid reason to be afraid for their own safety, but listen to the words of Jesus: “And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” – Mark 4:40.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” – Psalm 27:1. If we fear God, we have no reason to fear anyone else. The Lord is our strength and He is able to deliver us!

Another kind of fear often masks itself as “low self-esteem”; I believe this is actually a form of pride. God made us just how we are; we are perfect in His sight. We will never please everybody. No matter how hard we may try, it is impossible!

If we are humble, expecting nothing from others, it is not hard to let that Christ-like spirit rule in our heart and life. If we are filled with Christ, we will have no room for fear and unbelief!

Thoughts like, I don’t want to go there; I don’t “know” anyone and then I might feel funny, or, They might act all right to my face, but I’m sure they really don’t like me… are negative and fearful self-centered thoughts. This kind of thinking comes from Satan, who wants to pull us into bondage any way he can.

Maybe we don’t know anyone that is going to a certain event, but wouldn’t it be so much better to go with the attitude of a servant and giver, rather than with the spirit of fear? Lord work Your will in me…

And maybe some so-called “friends” really do despise us, yet are too “polite” to show it to our face. Does it really even matter? Jesus was despised and rejected of men – can we expect any less? We need a prayerful, loving heart as in Matthew 5:44, 46: “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you…. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye…?”

Love – bless – do good – pray – we will never feel burdened from giving these to others. We will find instead that we are losing a burden – of fear.

I once read that “we can be more afraid of what someone thinks about us than we are afraid of sinning against God”. This is not the way of victorious Christian living. Our purpose on earth is to glorify God, not to please man. The only way to overcome the fear of man is to fear God!

If we confess our fear and see it as a sin in our life, we can turn in faith to God and find victory over the binding power of fear. It takes much time in prayer to God – crying out for Him to truly live in us, to take out the pride and replace it with humility. We will never feel the peace of God until we let go of our fearful, self-conscious feelings and let His love rule within us, guiding our feelings, thoughts, and actions.

There is victory in Christ! I have found as I cry out to Him, He gives a peace that overshadows all doubts. Never underestimate the power of our God. He is able.
"My faith has found a resting place, 
in Jesus’ blood and creed; 
I trust the Ever-living One, 
His wounds for me shall plead. 
Enough for me that Jesus saves, 
this ends my fear and doubt; 
A needy soul I come to Him, 
He’ll never cast me out. 
I need no other argument, 
I need no other plea, 
It is enough that Jesus died, 
and that He died for me.”
– Lidie H. Edmunds

It is enough! May we praise Him and take hold 
of His promises!

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage....For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith....For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another...If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” – Galatians 5:1,5,13, and 25.

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Mover of Mountains
Helen Steiner Rice

Faith is a force that is greater
Than knowledge or power or skill,
And the darkest defeat turns to triumph
If you trust in God’s wisdom and will,
For faith is a mover of mountains –
There’s nothing man cannot achieve
If he has the courage to try it
And then has the faith to believe.

“Still fight resolutely on, knowing that, in this spiritual combat, none is overcome but he who ceases to struggle and to trust in God.”
– L. Scupoli

From My Utmost For His Highest, January 2 excerpts (Hebrews 11:8) (For the complete devotional, refer to the book)

...You do not know what you are going to do; the only thing you know is that God knows what He is doing. Continually revise your attitude towards God and see if it is a going out of everything, trusting in God entirely. It is this attitude that keeps you in perpetual wonder – you do not know what God is going to do next. Each morning you wake it is to be a “going out,” building in confidence in God. “Take no thought for your life . . .”...

...God does not tell you what He is going to do; He reveals to you Who He is. Do you believe in a miracle-working God, and will you go out in surrender to Him until you are not surprised an atom at anything He does?

...Let the attitude of the life be a continual “going out” in dependence upon God...

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Faith is a grasping of Almighty power; The hand of man laid on the arm of God; The grand and blessed hour 
In which the things, impossible to me, Become the possible, O Lord, through Thee.
– Anna E. Hamilton

The life of faith is not a life of mounting up with wings, but a life of walking and not fainting.” – Oswald Chambers

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And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” – Hebrews 11:6.

What is faith? Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines faith as “simple belief of the Scriptures, of the being and perfections of God, and of the existence, characters, and doctrines of Christ, founded on the testimony of the sacred writers…”

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Faith is knowing for a fact that we trust in God even though we can’t see Him with our eyes. It takes faith to believe that the spiritual realm exists.

There are many examples of women in the Bible who displayed faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. God often does amazing things in and through those who trust in Him.

One great example was Mary. Gabriel brought her such amazing news that she was to be the mother of the Messiah! She must have been completely shocked. The angel assured her with these words, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.” – Luke 1:30. She had to have great faith to believe what the angel told her. These are her words: “Behold the bondslave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” – Luke 1:38. Luke 1:45 further verifies that Mary unreservedly believed God; Elizabeth says to her, “Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.”

Mary’s life is an excellent illustration that faith is believing in God, trusting His Word as Truth, putting all of yourself under His control.

Trusting God brings blessing into our lives; “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord…” – Jeremiah 17:7a. Hannah was also a great woman of faith. She grieved for years over her barren womb, yet she knew that God was in control. She prayed in faith for God to open her womb, and He did (see 1 Samuel 1). The story of Hannah’s trust in God, His blessing on her, and her gratefulness to Him is an inspiring testimony of the rewards of trusting God.

Right now in my own life, I (Jordana) am experiencing challenges which I know the Lord wants to use to strengthen my faith and trust in Him. I am getting ready to graduate from high school, and I am not sure what I’m going to do this summer or the next few years of my life. It is hard not knowing what God has for me to do, but I have put my faith in the Lord and am working to surrender my will to Him. I know that whatever God works out will be best and it will bring glory and honor to His Name.

Hard times and challenges do come into our lives, but they do not have to discourage us! When we are walking with the Lord and fully trusting in Him, our faith can actually be strengthened during difficulties! Simply trust in His Word and yield yourself to Him.

In my current challenge of not knowing what lies ahead in my life, it can seem as if I am blinded, not knowing which way to turn. But I know that God wants to use this to help me stay focused on Him – like a horse with blinders on its bridle, helping it stay focused on the path in front of it. God often does this with us. When He puts “blinders” on us so we don’t know what is going on, it can be easy to panic, but we must realize that God is doing this for a reason. He allows this so that we won’t be as distracted by the world. His desire is that we keep our focus on Him and the path that He has laid before us. Genuine faith takes away fear; “In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid.” – Psalm 56:11a.

It is often difficult to walk totally in faith, but we can find encouragement in God’s Word. 2
Corinthians 5:7 tells us “...walk by faith, not by sight....” Even though we often can’t understand all the things that are happening to us, God always sees the “big picture”. He knows and understands every aspect of everything, and is working every circumstance for our good. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” – Romans 8:28.

Even during those times when we think we understand the way our lives are going, we still need to live by faith in God. Things are not always as they appear. We must realize that we cannot rely on our sight for everything; we need the Lord who is so much stronger than we are. We can trust in Him!

The Lord shows mercy to those who trust in Him; “... But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him.” – Psalm 32:10b. I am so thankful that I have the Lord’s hand to grasp, and His arms around me. All I have to do is call on Him for help. This is faith!

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My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Ray Palmer

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee,
Pure warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread, be Thou my Guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life’s transient dream,
When death’s cold sullen stream over me roll;
Blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink
William Bathurst

O, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe!

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chastening rod,
But, in the hour of grief or pain,
Will lean upon its God.

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life’s last hour is fled,
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up a dying bed.

Lord, give me such a faith as this,
And then, whate’er may come,
I’ll taste, e’en here, the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Every time you venture out in the life of faith, you will find something in your common-sense circumstances that flatly contradicts your faith. Common sense is not faith, and faith is not common sense; they stand in the relation of the natural and the spiritual. Can you trust Jesus Christ where your common sense cannot trust Him?”

– Oswald Chambers
And He said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.” Deuteronomy 32:20

“The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.” Ruth 2:12

“The God of my rock: in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; Thou savest me from violence.” II Samuel 22:3

“As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him.” II Samuel 22:31

“... He was intreated of them; because they put their trust in Him.” I Chronicles 5:20

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him: but I will maintain mine own ways before Him.” Job 13:15

“Although thou sayest thou shalt not see Him, yet judgment is before Him; therefore trust thou in Him.” Job 35:14

“... Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.” Psalm 2:12

“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.” Psalm 4:5

“But let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because Thou defendest them: let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee.” Psalm 5:11

“O LORD my God, in Thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me.” Psalm 7:1

“And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, L ORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee.” Psalm 9:10

“In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?” Psalm 11:1

“Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I put my trust.” Psalm 16:1

“Shew Thy marvellous lovingkindness, O Thou that savest by Thy right hand them which put their trust in Thee from those that rise up against them.” Psalm 17:7

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.” Psalm 18:2

“As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him.” Psalm 18:30

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” Psalm 20:7

“O my God, I trust in Thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.” Psalm 25:2

“O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in Thee.” Psalm 25:20

“In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in Thy righteousness.” Psalm 31:1

“I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.” Psalm 31:6

“Oh how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!” Psalm 31:19

“The LORD redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate.” Psalm 34:22

“How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings.” Psalm 36:7

“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” Psalm 37:3

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.” Psalm 37:5

“And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.” Psalm 37:40

“And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.” Psalm 40:3

“Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” Psalm 40:4

Faith

Also: trust, confidence, believe, etc.
“For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.” Psalm 44:6

“But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.” Psalm 52:8

“But Thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in Thee.” Psalm 55:23

“What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.” Psalm 56:3

“In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.” Psalm 56:4

“In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.” Psalm 56:11

“I will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of Thy wings. Selah.” Psalm 61:4

“Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.” Psalm 62:8

“The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in Him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.” Psalm 64:10

“In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.” Psalm 71:1

“For Thou art my hope, O Lord God: Thou art my trust from my youth.” Psalm 71:5

“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Thy works.” Psalm 73:28

“I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.” Psalm 71:5

“He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” Psalm 91:2

“O Israel, trust thou in the Lord: He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord: He is their help and their shield. Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: He is their help and their shield.” Psalm 115:9-11

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.” Psalm 118:8-9

“So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in Thy word.” Psalm 119:42

“They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.” Psalm 125:1

“But mine eyes are unto Thee, O God the Lord: in Thee is my trust: leave not my soul destitute.” Psalm 141:8

“Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee.” Psalm 143:8

“My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and He in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.” Psalm 144:2

“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.” Psalm 146:3

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5

“For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.” Proverbs 3:26

“In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge.” Proverbs 14:26

“That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.” Proverbs 22:19

“He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.” Proverbs 28:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” Proverbs 29:25

“Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto all them that put their trust in Him.” Proverbs 30:5

“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.” Proverbs 31:11

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:2

“What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the Lord hath founded Zion, and the poor of His people shall trust in it.” Isaiah 14:32

“Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.” Isaiah 26:4

“For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.” Isaiah 30:15

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!” Isaiah 31:1

“Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in dark-
ness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.” Isaiah 50:10

“My righteousness is near; My salvation is gone forth, and Mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon Me, and on Mine arm shall they trust.” Isaiah 51:5

“When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in Me shall possess the land, and shall inherit My holy mountain;” Isaiah 57:13

“For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in Me, saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 49:18

“Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in Me.” Jeremiah 49:11

“Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.” Hosea 10:13

“Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that leadeth thee astray.” Micah 7:5-7

“The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him.” Nahum 1:7

“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” Habakkuk 2:4

“I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.” Zephaniah 3:12

“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Matthew 6:30

“When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Matthew 8:10

“And He saith unto them, Where are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.” Matthew 8:26

“And, behold, they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.” Matthew 9:2

“But Jesus turned Him about, and when He saw her, He said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.” Matthew 9:22

“Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.” Matthew 9:29

“And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” Matthew 14:31

“Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” Matthew 15:28

“Which when Jesus perceived, He said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?” Matthew 16:8

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” Matthew 17:20

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” Matthew 17:20

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” Matthew 23:23

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.” Mark 2:5

“And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” Mark 4:40

“And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” Mark 5:34

“And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.” Mark 9:24

“And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.” Mark 10:52

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.” Mark 11:22
And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.” Luke 5:20

“When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned Him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Luke 7:9

“And He said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.” Luke 7:50

“And He said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him.” Luke 8:25

“And He said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.” Luke 8:48

“And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.” Luke 17:5

“And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.” Luke 17:6

“And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.” Luke 17:19

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

“And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.” Luke 18:42

“But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Luke 22:32

“And His name through faith in His name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” Acts 3:16

“And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost . . .” Acts 6:5

“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.” Acts 6:7-8

“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:22

“And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.” Acts 14:27

“And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” Acts 15:9

“And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.” Acts 16:5

“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Acts 20:21

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” Acts 26:18

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” Romans 1:8

“That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.” Romans 1:12

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17

“Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:” Romans 3:22

“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;” Romans 3:25

“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.” Romans 3:27

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” Romans 3:28

“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” Romans 3:31

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:5

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect.” Romans 4:13-14
"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all." Romans 4:16

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;" Romans 4:19-20

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2

"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith." Romans 9:30

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;" Romans 10:8

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

"Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear." Romans 11:20

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Romans 12:3

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;" Romans 12:6

"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations." Romans 14:1

"Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:22-23

"And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and He that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in Him shall the Gentiles trust." Romans 15:12

"But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:” Romans 16:26

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5

"To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;" 1 Corinthians 12:9

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:2

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." 1 Corinthians 13:13

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Corinthians 15:14

"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." 1 Corinthians 15:17

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

"But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:" II Corinthians 1:9

"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand." II Corinthians 1:24

"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;" II Corinthians 4:13

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight;)" II Corinthians 5:7

"Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." II Corinthians 8:7

"Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly;" II Corinthians 10:15

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reproved?" II Corinthians 13:5

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Galatians 2:16

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now
live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

“This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” Galatians 3:2

“He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” Galatians 3:5

“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.” Galatians 3:7-9

“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:11

“And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Galatians 3:12-14

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:22-26

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.” Galatians 5:5

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” Galatians 5:6

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.” Galatians 5:22

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,” Ephesians 1:15

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8

“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.” Ephesians 3:12

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Ephesians 4:5

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise of the Spirit through faith of the Son of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Ephesians 4:13

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” Ephesians 6:16

“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 6:23

“And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith.” Philippians 1:25

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

“Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.” Philippians 2:17

“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” Philippians 3:9

“Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,” Colossians 1:4

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” Colossians 1:23

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.” Colossians 2:5

“Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:7

“Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God,
who hath raised Him from the dead.” Colossians 2:12

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;” I Thessalonians 1:3

“For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.” I Thessalonians 1:8

“For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.” I Thessalonians 3:5

“But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:” I Thessalonians 3:6-7

“Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?” I Thessalonians 3:10

“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” I Thessalonians 5:8

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith growth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;” II Thessalonians 1:3

“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.” II Thessalonians 1:4

“Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” II Thessalonians 2:1

“And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” II Thessalonians 3:2

“Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.” I Timothy 1:4-5

“And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 1:14

“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck;” I Timothy 1:19

“Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.” I Timothy 2:7

“Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” I Timothy 2:15

“Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.” I Timothy 3:9

“For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 3:13

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” I Timothy 4:1

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.” I Timothy 4:6

“For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.” I Timothy 4:10

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” I Timothy 4:12

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” I Timothy 5:8

“Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.” I Timothy 5:12

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, wherein thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” I Timothy 6:10-12

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;” I Timothy 6:17

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” II Timothy 1:5
“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 1:13

“Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.” II Timothy 2:18

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” II Timothy 2:22

“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,” II Timothy 3:10

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 3:15

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” II Timothy 4:7

“That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.” Titus 2:2

“He that is faithful in a little thing is faithful also in much, and he that is unjust in a little thing is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10

“Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints,” Philemon 1:5

“But Christ as a son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” Hebrews 3:6

“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;” Hebrews 3:14

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” Hebrews 4:2

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,” Hebrews 6:1

“That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Hebrews 6:12

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)” Hebrews 10:22-23

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.” Hebrews 10:35

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” Hebrews 10:38-39

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him that was heir of the promise of life, purpose, faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” Hebrews 6:1-19
son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; by faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the first-born should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they werecompassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tortured: (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for them that love Him: through faith are the walls of Jericho fallen down; through faith the Red Sea is divided. These all obtained a good report through faith: yet they were not received, that they might come in before the veil, unto the figure of the tabernacle, which was set up; which is shewing the powers of the world to come. By faith Moses, when he was born, was not ashamed of the reproach of the exterior, being despised, for the sake of the presention of God. By faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the first-born should touch them. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 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Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 11:1-12:2

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” Hebrews 13:7

“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” James 1:3-6

“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.” James 2:1

“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?” James 2:5

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:14-26

“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” James 5:15
“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” I Peter 1:5

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” I Peter 1:7

“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” I Peter 1:9

“Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.” I Peter 1:21

“Whom [the devil] resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” I Peter 5:9

“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:1

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;” II Peter 1:5

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.” I John 3:21

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” I John 5:4

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.” I John 5:14

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 1:3

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,” Jude 1:20

“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast My name, and hast not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.” Revelation 2:13

“I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.” Revelation 2:19

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

From My Utmost For His Highest, May 8 excerpts (Rev. 3:10)

(For the complete devotional, refer to the book)

**Patience** is more than endurance. A saint’s life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, and He stretches and strains, and every now and again the saint says—“I cannot stand any more.” God does not heed, He goes on stretching till His purpose is in sight, then He lets fly. Trust yourself in God’s hands. ... You cannot see Him just now, you cannot understand what He is doing, but you know Him. ...

God has ventured all in Jesus Christ to save us, now He wants us to venture our all in abandoned confidence in Him. ...

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“Deeds of love for Him, to Him, following His steps. Believest thou in Christ? Do the works of Christ, that thy faith may live. Thou who sayest thou abidest in Christ, oughtest so to walk as He walked. If thou seest thine own glory, enviest the prosperous speakest ill of the absent, renderest evil to him who injureth thee, this did not Christ.”

- E. Pusey

“Faith is not intelligent understanding, faith is deliberate commitment to a Person where I see no way.” - Oswald Chambers
“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

Aren’t those sobering words? As the end draws nearer, more people are falling away from the faith. When He returns, will you, will I, be one of the few yet found faithful? Let’s look back at some men and women of faith and be encouraged and challenged to also press on!

**Noah** (Heb. 11:7). He was “warned of God of things not seen as yet.” Can you imagine never having seen a drop of rain in your life and being warned of a flood? If you had been Noah, would you have had the faith to build that ark all those years and preach to others despite being mocked and rejected?

**Abraham** (Heb. 11:8-10,17-19). Can you imagine God asking you to sacrifice your son who was supposed to be the carrier of God’s promise? The situation would defy our logic! He couldn’t foresee God’s provision of a ram. He was willing to obey, and had faith that God could raise Isaac.

**Job** (Job 13:15). Can you imagine trusting God so completely that you would still say, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him”?

**Joseph** (Gen. 39). Can you imagine being sold by your own brothers as a slave? Being falsely accused when you were totally innocent and upright? Thrown in prison for years with no valid cause? Joseph had faith in God and came through it all refined and blessed!

**Moses** (Heb. 11:23-29). Yes, he had to have faith for many things, but we know that he also made mistakes (as did Abraham and others), doubted at times, and was very human. Yet he is in the faith chapter, too. We should be encouraged that even though we are weak humans, we can still be people of faith!

**The children of Israel** (Exodus 16:11-31). They were NOT walking in faith, but God provided for them to show His care, provision, and power. Can you imagine the faith it would have taken (at first – after a while they probably took it for granted, which we must be careful not to do with God’s blessings and provision) to trust that each morning you would wake up to an abundant supply of manna to gather? No back-up plan worked to gather extra – anything extra went bad. We’re talking about total faith that God was going to provide for a basic daily need. Can you also imagine the faith it would have taken, especially the first time, to trust that the manna wouldn’t spoil on the Sabbath, when it did any other day that too much was gathered? The temptation was there to not gather extra (do we know better than God?), but rather to wait until the next day to get it fresh (taking it into our own hands). Of course, if anyone did that, they would end up going hungry, because God didn’t give manna on the seventh day.

**The indebted widow** (II Kings 4:1-7). Can you imagine being told to pour your pot of oil into as many vessels as you can borrow, and that each vessel would be full? She must have had faith to do it, but imagine also how it would have increased her faith to see the results! Isn’t it a blessing when God does a miracle for us that helps our faith to grow? 😊

**Daniel** (Dan. 2:16): “Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation.” This was an impossible thing indeed! Not only to interpret a dream, but also to figure out what the dream had been! More impossible than reading someone’s mind! No one could possibly do it, yet Daniel had enough confidence and faith.
in his God that he told
the king he would reveal
the dream and interpreta-
tion. That is faith!

We see in Daniel 6: 19-24 that God can do
miracles for those who
trust in Him! Before the
wicked men even hit the bottom of the den, they
were broken in pieces, yet here Daniel had spent
the night with the same lions and didn’t even have
a scratch! We often see pictures where the lions
look so sweet, like big kitty cats, with Daniel
resting amongst them. But try to put
yourself in
Daniel's shoes and imagine being in a den with
huge, ferocious, REAL lions surrounding you! Nor
does it say whether God’s angel tamed the lions;
it simply tells us he shut their mouths. Obviously
they were tamed to the point of not hurting him
at all, but we don’t know if they still were intimi-
dating or not. Either way, Daniel trusted God, and
I’m sure he had a much more peaceful night than
the king had! NO manner of hurt was found on
him, not even any injuries from being thrown
into this apparent pit, which probably was some-
what deep. Not a bone was broken . . .

Daniel 6:28 – Daniel prospered because of his
faith, his faithfulness, his devoutness, etc. That’s
the only way we will prosper. Not necessarily by
earthly measures, but spiritually, and in our testi-
mony and favor with God and man – also in
reality with God.

Daniel's friends (Dan. 3:17-18). Talk about
no compromise! They had the faith to believe
that God could deliver them – a total miracle –
and even if He wouldn’t, they were willing to lose
their lives, rather than compromise or be unfaith-
ful to God. And look at their reward in verses 19-
30! They didn’t even smell like fire – nothing
was singed on them (except what they were bound
with must have burned off because they were
loosed), nor did they get injured from being
thrown in! And God was glorified. Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego are examples to us of a
faith that will not compromise.

There are so many others we could look at, but
let’s finish with the most important example of all:

Jesus (Heb. 12:1-2): “Wherefore seeing we also
are compassed about with so great a cloud of wit-
nesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which
doeth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience
the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the
author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy
that was set before Him endured the cross, despising
the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the
throne of God.”

Hebrews 11 discusses many men and women
of faith, and the first verse of the next chapter
encourages us that as they walked by faith, we
should also – but we don’t just have past exam-
ple to look back on; we have the ultimate exam-
ple in Jesus Christ, AND He is a living example
that we can look to when our faith is tried! Let
us lay aside all our doubt and unbelief and run
our race well, finishing our course, by faith!

Jesus said in Matthew 9:29, “According to your
faith be it unto you.” If our faith is small and our
view of God is small, we will probably see small
things happening in our lives. We serve a great
God, and He can do great things! “Increase our
faith, Lord!” (Luke 17:5)

So – when He comes, shall He find faith
in your life? “Watch ye therefore, and pray always,
that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these
things that shall come to pass, and to stand before
the Son of man.” (Luke 21:36)

Oh, for trust that brings the triumph
When defeat seems strangely near!
Oh, for faith that changes fighting
Into victory’s ringing cheer-
Faith triumphant, knowing not defeat of fear!

- Herbert Booth -
We didn’t have room in this issue to print stories about George Müller. However, you can visit the following two links online to read stories and highlights from his life of faith:


http://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/bmuller8.html

Some highlights from these two sources:
- Approximately 50,000 specific prayers were answered during his lifetime (he lived 93 years/was in ministry 63 years), thousands on the day of his asking
- Read the Bible through about 200 times, 100 on his knees (faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God – any wonder why he was such a man of faith?)
- Distributed almost 2 million Bibles, New Testaments, and other portions of Scripture; nearly 111.5 million tracts/booklets/pamphlets
- Financially supported missionaries in 26 countries
- Directly involved in the conversion of almost 3000 orphans
- Made his requests made known only to God and received over 2.5 million dollars over his lifetime, for feeding and caring for thousands of orphans. In his last year, 7,203 loaves of bread, 4,013 pounds of meat, and much, much more was received.

Rules for strengthening your faith:
1. Read the Bible and meditate upon it. God has become known to us through prayer and meditation upon His own Word.
2. Seek to maintain an upright heart and a good conscience.
3. If we desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and therefore, through trial, be strengthened.

Answers to Prayer gives several specific stories. You can get this eBook free at http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/25891, or read selected portions at the Wholesome Words link given above.

I care not today what the morrow may bring,
If shadow or sunshine or rain,
The Lord I know ruleth o’er everything,
And all of my worries are vain.

Though tempests may blow and the storm clouds arise,
Obscuring the brightness of life,
I’m never alarmed at the overcast skies—
The Master looks on at the strife.

I know that He safely will carry me through,
No matter what evils betide;
Why should I then care though the tempest may blow,
If Jesus walks close to my side.

Our Lord will return for His loved ones some day,
Our troubles will then all be o’er;
The Master so gently will lead us away,
Beyond that blest heavenly shore.

Living by faith in Jesus above,
Trust ing, confiding in His great love;
From all harm safe in His sheltering arm,
I’m living by faith and feel no alarm.

The eyes of faith are ever covered by the living God, and therefore difficulties are not seen; the eyes of unbelief are covered with the circumstances, and therefore God is not seen. Faith brings in God, and therefore all is bright and easy; unbelief always shuts God out, and therefore all is dark and difficult.” – CHM

“Let our faith go beyond self and its life daily into the life of Christ, placing our whole being at His disposal to work in us.” – Andrew Murray
**Works of Faith:**

Works (defined as duties or performances) are distinguished in Scripture by two different titles: works of the law, and works of faith. Paul declares that we are not justified by the works of the law. James teaches that we are justified by works of faith.

The law is a very important tool, for God says that it is meant to bring us to salvation. When one looks into the law of Moses, the inner thought is, “Why, I can do this. I can obey God.” The law is held before us as a mirror as we work, try, and labor to please God, until we, completely worn out and exhausted, confess truthfully that we are unable to fulfill it. This is the struggle of our flesh to justify ourselves before God, and it is when we fail that we turn in faith to the salvation and justification that Jesus purchased for us.

God accepts us because of Jesus’ death on the cross. He was without sin; but for our sakes He bore our sin so that, when we are united with Him, we share the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus died to set us free and to release us from the debt we owe God because of our sin. God now looks upon the Christian as “in Christ” (Romans 8:1) – a brand new person because of Jesus’ obedience. Since we are now “in Christ”, we are heirs to all His strength, power, and life because we have been grafted into His vine.

The test of true faith is obedience. “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” – James 2:17. If our faith is truly alive, it will breathe and express itself in works that testify of its life. It is the fruit of faith that the world looks for in those that profess belief in Jesus Christ. If we really believe what God says, we will act on it.

In Proverbs 31 we have been discovering the character of a priceless woman. In “Virtue: the Excellence of Womanhood” (from Volume 5#4), we learned that it is a heart devoted to the truth that makes the virtuous woman so valuable. Her dedication to and love for truth makes her willing to persevere in the face of difficulty, suffering, and trial. This valuable quality gives her the trust of her husband’s heart and influence upon the lives of others.

In “Riches of Grace: the Treasure of Womanhood” (from Volume 5#5), we learned about the riches of the grace of God, giving the virtuous woman provision, strength, protection, and power for service – even in times of famine and great need.

Now, in part three, let’s look into the importance of the works of the virtuous woman and the faith that makes these works possible: the strength of womanhood.

“She perceiveth that her merchandise is good.”

The Hebrew word used for “merchandise” means “profit from trade”. Many assume that the Scripture sets forth the virtuous woman as an excellent business manager or owner, which may indeed be a portion of its practical meaning. But the spiritual meaning that we can apply to our hearts is important and beautiful as well.

We also find this word “merchandise” is in Proverbs 3:13-15. “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.”

The virtuous woman profits from trading the earthly pursuits of the world for the gain of a heart of wisdom. The heart of wisdom pursues the eternal things of God, seeks the life He has chosen for us to have, and grasps the eternal blessings that can only come as gifts from His hand.

We can see this exemplified in the life of Ruth. In leaving her home, family, and native country, she – by faith – chose the unknown. While clinging to Naomi, her mother-in-law, she said, “…Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following...”
after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: and thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:" – Ruth 1:16.

“Her candle goeth not out by night.”

The candles of the Old Testament times were not candles as we know them today. They were often in the shape of a bowl with a pinched edge that would hold a wick. The Israelites wanted their lamps to burn all night. Families would rather go without food than to let their lamps go out. Light signified blessing, life, and the dignity of a family. No light indicated a deserted house or even a curse of judgment upon an ungodly home. The Bible speaks a number of times about the lamp of the wicked being snuffed out. Proverbs 13:9 says, “The light of the righteous rejoices: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.”

Performing works, whether spiritual or physical, is impossible without light. Light was spoken into existence by the Word of God. God is light. Jesus, the One who brings true understanding and knowledge of God, is the Light of the world. The Spirit of God illuminates our spirits, bringing us joy and peace. Light exposes wrong and at the same time enhances that which is lovely and right. Light is pure and delicate and carries vast influence upon its surroundings.

In Scripture we find that the lamp symbolizes God’s guidance and the Word of God. David said, “For Thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.” (Psalm 18:28) and “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105).

“She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.”

This is where we find the virtuous woman faithfully performing the daily and necessary tasks. She stretches forth her hands to whatever work must be done, and perseveres until completion. There were many tasks for a woman’s hands in the Old Testament times. Her days were busy with many different tasks from very early in the day until late at night. She tended the fire for baking the bread, ground grain into flour, carried water from the city well, made her family’s clothes, and cared for her children.

Among these other daily duties, the writer of Proverbs 31 highlights the task of spinning – making thread to be woven into cloth. Without spinning there would be no clothing. Without clothing, its purposes of covering, protection, and beauty would not be there for those under this woman’s care.

Our daily time with the Lord in His Word gives us the “hearing” that produces faith. Following God as He leads us in obedience to His Word changes us from simply hearers to doers. May we be careful to be found daily seeking the Lord – His wisdom, guidance, and strength – that we and our households may be fully prepared and protected from whatever harsh elements of society may touch us.

“She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.”

In the story of Ruth, we see God’s provision for the poor. Ruth, having returned with Naomi to Israel, sought out a field in which to glean in order to care for Naomi. Gleaning was a humble task described in God’s law as provision for the poor, so this was clearly an acknowledgment of Ruth and Naomi’s poverty.

Ruth followed behind the reapers in the field of Boaz, gathering ear by ear the grains of barley which the harvesters missed. Boaz took notice of her, having heard of her care for Naomi, and subtly added from the stores of his great wealth to her meager gatherings. He also extended to her the protection of working by his laborers. She responded to his kindness with great humility and gratitude. This is an example of how we should respond to God’s loving gifts and provision for us.
Ruth didn’t know that she was to become the mistress of the very fields she was gleaning. Her hands would be filled with plenty to supply the needs of the poor. It is so important for us as God’s people to become as those possessing nothing (poor in spirit), that we might treasure the riches of the kingdom of heaven to share with the spiritually needy that we see each day.

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.”

Snow typifies the going forth of the Word of God: “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth… that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” – Isaiah 55:10-11.

When God speaks a word, it is fulfilled. There are no deliberations, no arguments, no questions. He is God. All too often, human nature is prone to question God’s Word, forgetting the rock-solid, unchangeable nature of God. He means what He says, and it always comes to pass.

Scarlet was the color of the cloth Rahab hung out her window, securing the protection and salvation of her household. The word of God for Jericho was destruction. The day of judgment found one family – Rahab and those with her – “covered”, because Rahab had acted in faith, believing the word of the Lord.

The virtuous woman is not afraid. She has heard the “forecast” and has diligently prepared her household for the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord. She shall experience the blessings of obedience upon the righteous.

“She maketh herself coverings of tapestry;”

The coverings of tapestry mentioned here are not clothing, but rather tapestry coverings for the home. The virtuous woman has complete contentment in the place in which she has found rest. Her soul is at rest, wanting nothing, in the presence of God and in unceasing communion with Him.

“Her clothing is silk and purple.”

Silk and purple clothing was most definitely for the wealthy woman. The garments a woman wore in Bible times clearly spoke of the wealth of her husband. The riches of God’s grace, which we accept, cause us to be recognized as belonging to Jesus. The character that shines through us, the works we do, and the words we speak, should all be permeated by the sweetness of His nature in our lives.

“Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.”

“… for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is His Name, and thy redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall He be called.” – Isaiah 54:4-5.

Ruth left her homeland, committed herself to God, and surrendered herself to His Will. She sought the humble road of service to her family (Naomi), unashamedly acknowledging her poverty by joining with the poor in the task of gleaning. Naomi sought rest for Ruth by encouraging her to ask Boaz to extend to her the pledge of redemption in accordance with the law of God. Ruth humbly placed herself at the feet of Boaz, expressing her desire that he be her redeemer. Boaz spread his skirt over Ruth (a symbol of the promise of protection), spoke kindly to her, and promised to legally redeem her. This promise brought him to the gates of Bethlehem, among the elders, where he cleared her debt and committed himself to her provision for the future, taking her as his wife.

Being so very poor, we come to the feet of our risen Lord, humbly acknowledging our state and need of a redeemer to cover us with the greatness of His redeeming love and forgiveness, the security of His favor, and the blessing of His caring protection.

Jesus, the Blessed Redeemer, has given Himself to us, clearing our debts, and making us His own. Because He has redeemed us, we have the grace to surrender our lives to Him, to obey, and to know the strength of womanhood.
The only asks thee to yield thyself to Him, that He may work in thee to will and to do by His own mighty power. Thy part is to yield thyself, His part is to work; and never, never will He give thee any command which is not accompanied by ample power to obey it. Take no thought for the morrow in this matter; but abandon thyself with a generous trust to thy loving Lord, who has promised never to call His own sheep out into any path without Himself going before them to make the way easy and safe. Take each little step as He makes it plain to thee. Bring all thy life in each of its details to Him to regulate and guide. Follow gladly and quickly the sweet suggestions of His Spirit in thy soul. And day by day thou wilt find Him bringing thee more and more into conformity with His will in all things; moulding thee and fashioning thee, as thou art able to bear it, into a vessel unto His honor, sanctified and meet for His use, and fitted to every good work.”

~ Hannah Whitall Smith

"Faith in the Bible is faith in God against everything that contradicts Him—I will remain true to God’s character whatever He may do, ‘Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him’—this is the most sublime utterance of faith in the whole of the Bible.”

~ Oswald Chambers

"Cultivate carefully the habit of daily, continually honoring Him by quiet, restful confidence that He is doing His work within. Let faith in His indwelling make you jealous of whatever could grieve Him — the spirit of the world or the actions of self and the flesh.”

~ Andrew Murray

"You have trusted Him in a few things, and He has not failed you. Trust Him now for everything, and see if He does not do for you exceeding abundantly above all that you could ever have asked or thought, not according to your power or capacity, but according to His own mighty power, that will work in you all the good pleasure of His most blessed will. You find no difficulty in trusting the Lord with the management of the universe and all the outward creation, and can your case be any more complex or difficult than these, that you need to be anxious or troubled about His management of it?”

~ Hannah Whitall Smith

"We doubt the word that tells us: ask, And ye shall have your prayer; We turn our thoughts as to a task, With will constrained and rare. And yet we have; these scanty prayers Yield gold without alloy; O God, but he who trusts and dares Must have a boundless joy!

~ George Macdonald

"H owbeit your faith seeth but the black side of Providence, yet it hath a better side, and God shall let you see it. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God; hence I infer that losses, disappointments, ill tongues, loss of friends, houses or country, are God’s workmen, set on work to work out good to you, out of everything that befalleth you. When the Lord’s blessed will bloweth cross your desires, it is best, in humility, to strike sail to Him, and to be willing to be led any way our Lord pleaseth.”

~ Samuel Rutherford
Here is the pen, and here is the paper. This is your life, and you may write your future.

Oh, thank you! You’re not serious. This is the opportunity of a lifetime, just what I’ve been wanting.

I snatch the pen and begin scrawling, abbreviating in my haste. Here is my plan for this school year. This is what I want with different relationships. And looking further ahead…

My doubts dissolve, my fears fade, as I detail how each aspect of my life should develop. Dates, names, locations appear on the page. The uncertainty of life vanishes. The fog lifts and I draw my horizons. Now my path is clear before me. No worries. No obstacles. I know what I want, and I know that I’ll get it, and nothing will stand in my way.

What a perfect dream.

But we face a far different reality, don’t we? We see the paper of our future – frighteningly blank and uncertain. We reach for the pen, but it’s beyond our grasp. What we think, do, or say in given situations – yes, that we can write. But it’s everything and everyone else that worries us – the things we desperately want to have happen, or not happen – the things over which we have no control at all.

We sit and stew. What can we do to reach the pen? What can we do to take control of our lives, to guarantee that things really will work out the way we want? After all, we know. We know our needs, our desires; we know what’s best; we have a terrific plan.

We stretch toward the pen again, and then we see who is holding it. God.

We pause. We wonder. Bible promises filter through our minds like rays of light. Nothing is impossible with God. Ask, and you will receive. Hmm…”

We’ll pray again, a little differently this time. We want the pen, but it doesn’t look like we’ll get it. God has a different plan that He’s writing – and we could adjust to it, if only we knew what it was. That way we would know what to expect, what to ask Him to change, whether or not we could trust enough to follow.

God, I’m asking for details, specifics. Umm…okay, am I going to stay single forever? I’m very happy single now, as long as I know this isn’t permanent. What is Your plan?

No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

That’s very nice. Actually, I was hoping for a name and date…”

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Well – we’ll try a different one. God, all my friends seem to know where they’re going in life, and I’m stuck in a rut. What’s Your plan for my…
education, my ministry, my work? How’s all this going to work out?

As for God, His way is perfect. Trust in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land, and verily you shall be fed. Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it. He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.

Pause. This is not what I hoped for. I wanted specifics, a blueprint, a tangible sign that God’s plan really would make me happy.

God will supply all your need. Silence. Okay. This is all I have to go on. I’m sitting here on my knees, and I have the Bible, and I have this blank page of my future, and God’s hand is holding the pen, out of my reach.


I have two options. I can writhe in my wants and worries, struggle to reach the pen. Maybe, if I try really hard, I’ll succeed in spilling some ink of my own plan on the page. But to do that, I’d give up joy and peace and sink into this pit of doubt and despondency. And all I’d have to show for my weary efforts and sleepless nights is an ink spill.

Or I can trust. Tell me those promises again, Lord.

As for God, His way is perfect. He satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagles. He loves you with an everlasting love. He will not forget you; He has graven you on the palms of His hands.

His thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways His ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than your ways, and His thoughts than your thoughts.

They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. None of them that trust in Him shall be desolate…

Trust. Can I trust You, Lord? The “what-if” leeches question. Will You drive my life down the drain? Will You forget me? Will You lead me into a desert of loneliness?

Trust. Who are You, Lord? When’s the last time I opened my Bible and tried to find out?

I look to the cross. The arms outstretched. The crown of thorns. There I find Your perfect sovereignty, Your heartbreaking passion, Your selfless love. Forever proven. Forever trustworthy.

Trust. This isn’t fun. In fact, it kind of hurts to pry my fingers off my own plans. But a peace is beginning to seep into my troubled heart, a peace that I could never know otherwise.

Lord, You haven’t given me specifics. I don’t know what will happen. You haven’t told me.

But You have promised. But You have given your life for me. And I close my eyes to sight, and shut out the fatalistic murmuring of those “what-if” leeches. And I ask for Your way, no matter where You lead, for Your plan, no matter what You write.


Here is the pen, God. I know You’re a perfect writer. So I won’t try to get it into my own hands. I won’t try to tell You what to write. I’ll wait – and look forward to – Your story.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts…. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways…”

I think I will memorize that. I will tell it to my what-if thoughts.

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The Holy Spirit is always at work with secret but divine power in the trusting soul that does not hinder His work by unbelief.”

- Andrew Murray

Just as God leads me I would go;
I would not ask to choose my way;
Content with what He will bestow,
Assured He will not let me stray.
So as He leads, my path I make,
And step by step I gladly take,
A child in Him confiding.

- L. Gedicke -
Never Borrow Sorrow from Tomorrow
Helen Steiner Rice

Deal only with the present—
Never step into tomorrow,
For God asks us just to trust Him
And to never borrow sorrow,
For the future is not ours to know,
And it may never be,
So let us live and give our best
And give it lavishly... For to meet tomorrow’s troubles
Before they are even ours
Is to anticipate the Savior
And to doubt His all-wise powers,
So let us be content to solve
Our problems one by one,
Asking nothing of tomorrow except
“Thy will be done.”

We look ahead through each changing year
With mixed emotions of hope and fear—
Hope for the peace we long have sought,
Fear that our hopes will come to naught.
Unwilling to trust in the Father’s will,
We count on our logic and shallow skill,
And in our arrogance and pride,
We are no longer satisfied
To place our confidence and love
With childlike faith in God above.
And tiny hands and tousled heads
Are closer to the dear Lord’s heart
And of his kingdom more a part
Than we who search and never find
The answers to our questioning minds—
For faith in things we cannot see
Requires a child’s simplicity.
Oh, Heavenly Father, grant again
A simple, childlike faith to men,
And lead him to a higher goal,
For there’s but one unfailing course—
We win by faith and not by force.

Further Resources on Faith:
Daily Light:
January 15th (The Measure of Faith), March 24th (Abraham Believed In the Lord), May 9th (Faith Is the Substance of Things Hoped For), November 15th (God Is Faithful), November 28th (Faith Without Works Is Dead), December 22nd (Your Work of Faith)
Sermon: Being Mixed with Faith, by Dean Stump. “The Bible contains God’s many promises, many commands and many admonitions. To a reader or hearer without faith, they seem powerless. With faith (the substance of things hoped for), the Word of God is alive and can work. Noah feared the Lord and acted. Do you?”
http://www.ephrataministries.org/msg_detail.php?msgid=4902

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**Fruit of the Spirit:** Faith