WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THE FAITH GOD HONORS?

Faith is one of the major issues that God looks for when you pray. There is a type of faith He requires that He wants to create in you.

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Faith That Moves the Mountains in Your Life

Introduction

Jesus, the Author of Your Faith
Rom 10:17 (NIV) Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

The First Time it Happened
On that special day when you decided to accept Jesus as your Lord, Savior, and King, someone had just presented the gospel message to you. Even though you may not have realized it, Jesus spoke faith into your heart at that moment. A power that enabled you to believe, helped you be willing to give salvation a try. That was the first time you experienced faith from Jesus.

Jesus the Perfector of Your Faith
Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Where Did You Go from There?
Typically, you went on with your life, as a new Christian. Hopefully you had people helping you grow in the principles of the Bible. But for the most part, you went back to many of those things you were doing prior to your salvation. As you did, you ran into things you needed God's help with. So, you started praying and asking for His help. That presented some moments of difficulty. There were things that God just simply didn't help you with. Why? That is what is being dealt with here. How do you get God to help you, since you are now His child?

Now That Jesus Has Saved You
It all comes down to yielding to all Jesus has to offer. As you open your life to allow Him to have His will in you, incredible things happen. He has what you have always wanted and needed. But, like the rest of us, you have tried and maybe are still trying to obtain them through many wrong sources. Happiness and joy are heading your way, as you learn to have faith and trust in Jesus' integrity and character. But, faith in Jesus' honesty is where you can really run into problems.

Salvation Showed You the Way
Because you had faith in Him, He gave you the most wonderful salvation you could ever hope for. Because you trusted Him, He has proven to you that He is totally trustworthy. You have yielded to various aspects of His life and ministry and have enjoyed every minute of it. Now it is time to take the plunge; it is time for you to go ahead and dive into deep water.

Salvation Just Opened the Door
Since you have enjoyed and been thankful for all He has done so far, you need to realize that, that is only scratching the surface of all the wonderful things you and He are going to do together. The greatest is yet to come--faith that will move the mountains in your life!

Chapter One
Faith That God Honors

Calling Jesus A Liar

Jesus Is Telling the Truth
Few people would come right out and accuse Jesus of lying; but that is what unbelief is all about. The reason Jesus requires faith is because it is your acceptance of His words as being true. He has the entire universe to back up His honesty and integrity. He has demonstrated in every way that He goes strictly by the book on being honest and faithful not only to His word but to what is just, right, and fair. But, those facts have to totally influence what you think and believe.

Absolute Power for Good
It's true that no one can stop Jesus from doing *anything* He wants; but He doesn't use His incredible wisdom to fool people, cheat them, or mislead them. He doesn't use His absolute power to overwhelm them, control them, force them, or enslave them. You can trust Him to only do what you will allow Him to do. And, it will only happen in a gentle and loving way.

Look At His Beautiful Creation
None of Jesus' wonderful attitudes, character, or provisions were forced on Him. He chose to be Who He is and do what He does. As you look at the beauty of Jesus' creation and His promises in His Word, you can see His love and compassion. As you look at His suffering and the cross, He died on, you can see His isn't like any God you would expect. As you read about His healings and how He helped damaged and hurting people, you can tell He can be trusted. Now, compare that with the way humans treat each other and the evil of Satan.

Look At What He Could Have Been
As you look at Satan and us humans, you can see what Jesus could have been, if He wanted to. Look at the crime, dishonesty, hatred, murder, and wars. Compare them with the honesty and integrity of Jesus. As you think like this, it helps you to realize Jesus can be trusted. He deserves your faith that accepts the fact that He never lies or sins.

Faith In Jesus

How to Have Faith in Jesus' Truth
You have been using your five senses to evaluate what you believe to be true. You now have a belief system that you have developed. So, you might be comparing what you think is true with what the Bible says is true. Since you trust your five senses, you may be deciding which source to put your faith in. But, **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) says: We live by faith, not by sight.** If you do this, you won't be calling Jesus a liar, when you can't see it with your own eyes. This Bible verse could help you compare what you see and experience, with your five senses, and still choose to believe Jesus. You would do this because you know He *always* tells you the truth.

Faith In Jesus' Faithfulness
Having faith is the spiritual battle every person faces. Peter was doing fine, as he walked on water toward Jesus. But then his five senses focused in on the wind and the waves. All of a sudden Peter started believing his five senses and stopped believing in Jesus. You have trusted your five senses all your life. Does Jesus expect you to doubt them and start believing things you can't see? No, He doesn't! He isn't asking you to believe in things you can't see. He is asking you to believe in Him, the One Who has done so many incredible things in your life and in the lives of so many others.

Faith In Jesus' Power
Mark 10:27 (NIV) Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible <u>with God</u>." Peter wasn't being asked to believe that he could walk on water. He wasn't being required to believe walking on water was possible. He wasn't being asked to believe that all things are possible. He was being asked to believe in Jesus, as God. You aren't being asked to believe in what is possible either. You are being asked to believe in what is possible *with Jesus*. What can *He* do? That simplifies your faith assignment.

Faith In Jesus for You
Jesus is the *only* place where you should put your faith. Peter was walking on the water because of Jesus' honesty. When He said "come," that changed the laws of the universe that surrounded Peter. That meant that Peter could come to Jesus, walking on the water. You will be doing the supernatural things you will be doing because Jesus is telling you the truth. Your five senses may be disagreeing; but, if you ask Jesus to empower your faith, you will see miracles in your life.

A-S-K

How To Get Miracles
Mat 7:7-8 *Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who *asks* receives; he who *seeks* finds; and to him who *knocks*, the door will be opened. You can't find any better words for how to experience Jesus' provisions. Read them again and see if these three words from Jesus are the keys that unlock all of Christianity for you. <u>When Jesus said this, He gave the "*how-to-get"* instructions to every promise and every provision in the Bible</u>. These are The Three Keys To All Of Christianity.

Asking let's Jesus know you want something from Him
and invites Him into the situation.

Asking, Seeking, and Knocking
Asking is the main key that activates the other two keys. *Seeking* helps you use true desire to find the things Jesus has to offer you. It also helps you search the Scriptures diligently. *Knocking* opens the doors of opportunity for you to work together with Jesus to share with others. It helps people's hearts be prepared, so when you talk to them, they are ready to hear what Jesus wants to say to them. As you learn how to do these three things, you will be able to live the Christian life with Jesus in a faith-filled way. You will be inviting Him into every aspect of your life.

ASK

It's An Invitation

When you ask someone a question, that means you are inviting them to give you an answer. When you ask someone for something, that means you are inviting them into a mutual exchange. When you ask someone to be your friend, that means you are inviting them to establish a special relationship with you. Asking Jesus for various things causes you to *look to Him* for whatever it is you need. In order for Him to honor your God-given free will, He waits for you to ask for *everything* you desire of Him. But, He requires that you *ask* with faith in Him.

A Better Source

Asking gets Jesus involved in providing His perspectives to you each time you have a decision to make. If you aren't asking Him, then you only hear from other sources of thoughts, feelings, words to speak, and actions to take. You will receive an opinion from your mind and heart, from your body, from the world, or from the devil. Asking Jesus is all you have to do, if you want His input. Plus, it builds a close and intimate relationship with Him. Your invitation to Him will *add* His provisions to these other possible sources.

SEEK

Pursuing New Things

All of the attitudes and character traits the Bible presents, as being good, are in Jesus. He is everything you need to desire to be. But that's the problem! How do you get those things? You lack the power, wisdom, understanding, knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, and determination to be those things. And, Jesus has every one of them. However, the Bible isn't putting the pressure on you to produce them. *Seeking* is you *sincerely*, *passionately* inviting Jesus to live it through you. *Seeking* helps you want to know everything Jesus has to offer you. It starts you on a passionate journey of discovery, as you *seek* all Biblical truth.

Pursuing Better Things

As you *seek* a closer and closer relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit teaches you how to yield to Him. The way Jesus thinks, feels, talks, and acts becomes a part of the way you think, feel, talk, and act. But, Jesus doesn't take over, He just makes His thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds known and available to you. This gives you supernatural provisions that keep your opinion, the world's opinion, your body's cravings, and Satan's temptations from being your only source of input. Jesus will *add* His new and better ideas from His perspective.

KNOCK

Caring About Others

Knocking gets you involved in Jesus' ministry. Jesus did, before salvation, and still is *knocking* on your heart's door, asking you to allow Him to be a part of everything you are involved in. Now it is time to start *knocking* on the door of Jesus' outreach to the needs of other people. *Knocking* is a process of allowing Jesus to help you see the needs, pains, and struggles He sees in others.

Reaching Out To Others

As you start learning how to love others, you find a tremendous amount of needs out in the world. It would be impossible for you to meet them all. So, Jesus will guide you to the issues, problems, and people who need and *want* His help. *Knocking* keeps you from randomly reaching out to just anyone. It helps you be at the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things, to the right people. That brings great success to your ministering to others.

Chapter Two
Are You Motivated by Faith or Fear?

Faith Or Fear

Calling Out in Fear

Matt 8:24-26 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He (Jesus) was asleep. And they went and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And He said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. There are two main motivators that cause you to come to Jesus. You will typically come to Him because you believe in Him or because you are afraid of what is going to happen to you.

Giving Up A Fear Relationship

Faith and fear are two motivators that can get Jesus involved in your life; but only faith brings you closer to Him. If you come through fear, you will only have an off and on relationship with Him. You will usually come, when you are in a crisis. Once the crisis is taken care of, by Him, you will often go back to getting all your answers and help from some other source. If you come through faith, it will draw you into a love relationship with Him. Faith is an opening of your heart and mind to how trustworthy He is.

You may not realize it but, many of the hardships you experience are caused by decisions you make out of fear.

Fear

Decisions Out of Bad Fear

A life motivated by fear, is a life of torment and pain. **1 John 4:18 (NIV) There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.** Many times, you can know you shouldn't do something. But you are *afraid* that if you don't, something worse will happen. Other times, Jesus can want you to do something, but, you are too afraid to do it. This can cause you to make bad decision.

Decisions Out of Good Fear
There is a curing fear that can bring your emotions into a *better* relationship with Jesus. **Luke 12:4-5 (NIV) I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <u>But I will show you Whom you *should* fear</u>: Fear Him Who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, *fear Him*.** We all start off with a lot of fear, that means you are going to fear *something* or *someone*.

Decisions Out of Love
Jesus is telling you to place your fear in Him. He is the One Who is going to judge everyone. If you fear Him *more* than you fear anyone or anything, then you will do the *right* thing even though it is out of fear. Pray and ask Jesus to help you during times of fear, to place your fear in Him. Ask Him to take it and turn it into a love relationship that drives out all fear (1 John 4:18). Once that happens, you are ready to make decisions out of love.

Love

Starting With Wisdom
In 1 John 4:18, you saw that **perfect love drives out fear.** But, since you can start out with a lot of fear and are still learning how to take advantage of the love of God, that the Holy Spirit poured into your heart, there is a wise way of redirecting your fear. **Psa 111:10 (NIV) The fear of the LORD is <u>the *beginning* of wisdom</u>; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.**

Learning To Yield to Love
Until perfect love has driven fear out of your life, make Jesus the One you fear more than people or circumstances. Let it keep you from doing wrong things out of fear. As Jesus takes you through this study, faith will lead you into a powerful love relationship that will drive out all fear. You can see how Jesus worked on His disciple's fears in Matthew 8:24-26. They were afraid the storm was going to drown them. But as their faith stabilized, their fears were driven out through a love relationship with Jesus.

Be Trained by Jesus
Try to put yourself in *every* situation the disciples faced in the Gospels. If you were in a little boat and it was about to be capsized by a storm, what would your reaction be? This process of putting yourself in their place in every situation will help you allow Jesus to say what He said to them to also be said to you.

By allowing yourself to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, He will help you live with the disciples. You will be able to be trained by Jesus, as He takes His disciples through the training. The more you open your heart to the Holy Spirit, the more you will feel and experience those things that transformed their lives and ministry. Jesus is unprecedented in His teaching and transforming abilities. If you are Jesus-trained, then you will be able to do what His disciples did.

Permission

Creation Words

Mat 14:28-31 (NIV) "Lord, if it's You," Peter replied, "tell me to come to You on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was *afraid*, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Once Peter walked on the water, he was involved in Jesus' creation words.

Faith In Creation Words

Peter used the *ask* key, from The Three Keys to All of Christianity, and got permission from Jesus to get out of the boat and *come* to Him. When Jesus gives you permission to do something, it is a creative fact. In other words, when Jesus said "come," the Creator of the universe made it a fact or truth that Peter could walk on the water and *come* to Him. As long as Peter kept his faith in Jesus' "come," he lived his life through that supernatural permission. This was a spoken permission or "rhema" that was given only to Peter for that one moment.

A "Rhema" Word

A Temporary Permission

The Greek language has one word for a spoken word--"rhema," and another word for the written word--"logos." The Bible is logos (written words) and are permanent, inspired by God, and are the final authority for everyone. When Jesus gives you feelings of faith or assurance that you can do something, it is a rhema (spoken word) that is just for you and just for that time period. No one else could have used that rhema (spoken word from Jesus) to Peter. Nor could Peter use it at a later date; it was a one time, one person, spoken permission.

The Up's and Down's of Your Day

Jesus' rhema word to Peter of "come," created a feeling of faith and confidence. As long as Peter allowed that faith to be his motivator, he was able to live his life based on that permission from Jesus. But, when Peter changed his focus from faith in Jesus to fear from the wind and waves, he lost the right to take advantage of Jesus' permission. This is a fantastic illustration of how your day goes in "real" life. If you start looking back on your day, you will see parts of your day as, walking victoriously and other parts of your day, as sinking.

Logos

Rhema Within Logos

There are parts of the Bible that are for everyone and parts that were just for that person in the Bible. Peter's story about walking on the water is for you; but, Jesus' word "come" was only for Peter. It was written (logos), so you could learn how faith and fear work. But, it wasn't giving you permission (rhema) to walk on water. That is why you need the Holy Spirit to guide you in interpreting your Bible for you. Without His guidance, you will misunderstand what Jesus' meaning was, when He caused it to be written.

Logos And Faith
Except for situations where Jesus was talking to a specific person at a specific time, the rest of the Bible is telling everyone what to do all the time. However, even when Jesus was inviting Peter to "come," it was training for everyone. If the Bible gives you a general permission to do something, then your faith will be able to act on the basis of that fact. But, if you decide which Scriptures you choose to live on the basis of and ignore others, that will keep faith from working for you.

Logos And Your Will
2 Tim 3:16-17 (NIV) *All* Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. As you can see, this *logos* Word is the final authority for everyone. Jesus gave you the Holy Spirit, living inside you, to guide you into what the true meaning of every verse is. If you *want* to *always* learn the truth, He will keep you from error. But, if you *want* to make it say something else, you can.

Chapter Three
What Is Little Faith?

Time Or Size

Size Changes
Luke 17:5-6 (NIV) The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Like most of us, the disciples misunderstood the words "little faith;" you can assume that it is about size rather than time. The problem with size is, it can be big one moment and small the next. If this happens, like Peter, you will be victorious one minute and failing the next.

Duration Is Continuous
Jesus is saying that, even if you had a very small faith, as it related to size, it would still be able to do great things. If you think about faith, as it relates to size, then you will do what the disciples did. You will use the *ask* principle and try to get Him to give you a faith that is big. So, why didn't Jesus simply say, "You of inconsistent faith, why are you so afraid," instead of saying: **"You of little faith, why are you so afraid (Mat 8:26)?"** Your relationship with Jesus is going to be very dependent on you having ears to hear.

Jesus doesn't always spell out His meaning for you. He wants you to start getting revelations. He wants you to have ears that can hear and understand spiritual things. **Mark 4:9 (NIV) Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."** Jesus said things in such a way that those who had this kind of ears could understand the meaning. But, those who were being resistive and rebellious wouldn't get the meaning.

What Do You Mean?

The Test Question

In Matthew 8:26 Jesus asked the disciples in the boat the question: **"Why are you so afraid?"** In Matthew 6:30 Jesus asked the crowd: **"Will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"** In Matthew 16:8 the Bible says: **"Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"** In Matthew 14:31 Jesus asked Peter the question: **"Why did you doubt?"**

The Wrong Answer

When someone asks you a question, you usually consult your mind. That wasn't what Jesus was trying to get His disciples to do then. *And*, that isn't what He is trying to get you to do now. You are never going to come up with the answer Jesus is looking for by checking your mind. Ask Jesus to help you stop trying to use your mind to solve your problems. Ask Him to empower you to use it to help you realize you need His help.

The Source of The Answer

If you are going to have ears that hear what Jesus is saying, when He asks you a question, you will need to consult Him. Instead of thinking, "yes, why *did* I doubt?" You would use the *ask* and *seek* keys to get your answer; they point you to Jesus. First, you would ask Jesus in a silent prayer inside your mind, "Jesus, why did I doubt?" Then you would take the answer He gives you and intensely *seek* the power and relationship that would help you stop doubting.

The Purpose of The Question

One of the main reasons Jesus uses words that can confuse you is, so you will realize you need to *ask* or *seek* Him. When He asks the question: "Why did you doubt?", you need to allow Him to explain what He means by the word doubt. Jesus' question is to help you learn what things need His answers. Peter didn't know he was supposed to ask why he doubted. He probably got discouraged. He might have hated himself for being so stupid. He might have done a lot of things that didn't help. But Jesus wanted him to find out why he doubted.

Doubt

Facing The Fact

We say things like, I doubt that is true; that means you aren't positive it lacks truth; but, you have a feeling it isn't true. Believing something *is* true or believing something is *not* true requires faith. You either believe Jesus *is* telling you the truth, or you believe He is *not* telling you the truth. Doubt is the condition of you *leaning* toward believing Jesus is lying. It isn't until you put doubt in these terms that you can see how offensive doubt is to Jesus.

It Might Not Work

Fear has the same characteristics as doubt; it is being afraid that something is going to happen to you that is different from what Jesus said. You don't *know* something is going to happen to you different from what Jesus said. You just have this "feeling" it *might* happen. Fear lays out "worst case scenarios" that try to crowd out your faith, trust, and belief in Jesus. Your body, the world's philosophies, and Satan's lies keep coming at you with "what if's."

Your Heart Isn't Sure
Jesus expects you to resist these lies and believe Him and His words *constantly*. But He does *not* expect you to do it through your own power. You can have this whole conversation with yourself about how you feel. You can try to convince yourself that Jesus is telling you the truth. You can get to the place where your mind is totally convinced that Jesus is telling the truth. But you heart can still refuse to give you the feelings of full trust in Jesus. You must let Jesus heal your heart, so it believes too.

Consistent Faith

The Importance of Consistent Faith
In James 1:6 you can see that little faith is not size: **"let him ask in faith, with no doubting."** Little sized faith includes some doubting. If you are going to get delivered from faith that only lasts for a *little* time, then you will need to ask Jesus to increase the duration of your faith not the size of it. You need Him to make it constant or consistent. If you believe for a little while but doubt for a little while, the Bible, in James 1:7 explains to you that, **that person must not suppose that he will receive *anything* from the Lord.**

The Attack on Consistent Faith
The Biblical rule, that says you cannot doubt even for a moment, helps you understand why you so desperately need a source of constant faith. This rule will help you see that human faith isn't going to be able to perform adequately for getting the job done. You need a type of faith that can stand up to your heart not being sure, the devil trying to get you to believe it isn't going to work, your memory of some unanswered prayers, and a whole bunch of other things that try to get you to doubt for a second.

Double Minded

Two Opposing Beliefs
James 1:8 (NIV) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. When you think one thought for a while and then think the opposite thought right after that, you have become **unstable in all** you do. You can't make up your mind. Stability is to be able to know something and keep being sure of its truth. That means you are persuaded or have been convinced that something is true. However, just because you are convinced that something is true doesn't necessarily make it true; it just means that is what you consistently believe.

Faith Without Truth
John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. There is a big difference in faith and faith in Jesus. If you are determined and relentless in your belief in something false, you will be anything but free. Your faith would lock you inside a lie that you wouldn't have the ability to get out of. Human faith lacks stability and it lacks direction. It can be misled in a total way. You need to let Jesus show you how to get His faith.

Convinced By Jesus

Faith In the Source

Heb 12:2a (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. To have stable faith in Jesus and what He says, is to allow Him to prove to you that He never lies. Then you won't have to be constantly needing to be convinced about everything He says. In other words, if you can find a pure, trustworthy source of truth, then you can have faith and complete trust in that source. You will *always* know that truth *only* comes from that source of information.

Faith In One Source

The reason why Jesus is requiring you to have faith in Him, rather than having faith in each promise, principle, or philosophy the Bible gives you, is for stability. Since the Bible is the truth that is coming from Him, then your faith in Him will help you trust and believe the Bible. You won't have to decide whether or not to believe a verse. However, Jesus decides which verse, when a verse, how a verse, and how much of a verse shall be applied to you. If you "pick" a verse and try to believe in it, apply it, or activate it, you are putting yourself in charge of Biblical application. That isn't a wise decision!

Who Jesus Is

Three Aspects

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am *the way* and *the truth* and *the life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me." These are three aspects of Jesus that The Three Keys to All of Christianity unlock. These characteristics are three steps into your relationship with Jesus. Faith in Jesus makes it possible for you to *ask, seek*, and *knock* because it is all being done through Jesus. When they are done through Jesus, they are being done through *the way, the truth*, and *the life*.

The Way

First of all, Jesus is *the way* to the Father; **"No one comes to the Father except through Me."** Once you have found Jesus as *the way* to the Father through salvation, your life starts to experience miracles and supernatural blessings. This is because salvation makes you a child of the Father (Romans 8:14-17). As a child of your heavenly Father, you get all the rights and privileges of one of God's children. In other words, you experience Jesus doing incredible things in your life just like He did in the Gospels.

The Truth

John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. You *experienced* salvation and being born into your Father's family through Jesus. You obeyed Romans 10:8-10 and it happened just like the Bible said it would. Jesus has been transforming your life from that point on. These miraculous experiences build your faith, trust, dependency, and reliance on Him, so that you are able to accept Jesus as being *the truth*. That is the second step into your relationship with Jesus; and, that brings freedom. It allows you to relax in the truthfulness of Jesus.

The Life

John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come <u>that they may have life</u>, and have it to the full. So, you have, at this point, found Jesus as being *the way* to the Father; you have had miraculous experiences that *proved* He always tells *the truth* because He *is the truth*; and now, you are involved in a study that proves He is your *life*. You are learning how to live the Christ-life that is built on *consistent* faith in Jesus and Jesus alone. As Jesus takes you through these studies, He is showing you a whole new way of living life. He is sharing His life with you, so you can see what the Jesus-life is all about.

Chapter Four
Seven Questions
That Stabilize Your Faith

Biblical Support

Romans 8:31-39 gives you the path to constant faith in Jesus. The Bible has provided you with proof that your heavenly Father loves you enough to do only the very best for you. God provided the Bible for you to be able to read and study vital truths that will set you free. But He only requires one thing from you--faith. So, He has prepared seven questions for you to ask yourself. If you memorize these questions and challenge any doubt you might have concerning Jesus, then you will be able to have stable, consistent faith.

Your Commitment

Willing To Be Consistent

QUESTION ONE: **Verse 31a: What then shall we say to these things?** Your question: What then shall I say to these things? The first question is the one that lays out the foundation for all the other questions. The only question you are going to be answering from all these questions is, will you have constant faith in Jesus? **"What then shall we say to these things"** is asking you whether or not you will allow these other six questions to convince you that Jesus is worthy of constant faith, trust, dependency, and reliance?

Open Your Heart to Jesus

Ask Jesus to help you answer this question positively. Ask Him to help you build a constant faith in Him, as you answer the rest of these seven questions. Ask Him to speak a special faith in you that is based on each question you are asked. Ask Him to stabilize your faith in Him in such a way that you will be free from doubt. Ask Him to help you only apply this faith, He is building in you, to those things He wants you to believe. Let Him take you through these questions and help you see how committed He is to you.

Your Confession of Faith

So, let Jesus empower you to say: "Jesus, as You give me the strength, I will have constant faith, trust, dependency, and reliance on You."

All Your Enemies Are Defeated

Willing To See the Greatness of God

QUESTION TWO: **Verse 31b: If God is for us, who can be against us?** Your question: If God is for me, who can be against me? Who is big enough, powerful enough, or wise enough to overthrow God, Who is for you? Satan tried and failed; as a matter of fact, he is still trying to do as much damage as he can to the plan of God. But Jesus destroyed all Satan's efforts and has taken away all his authority and power.

To understand this defeat, you must realize that Satan was able to addict you, dishonor your will, and cause your body to make you a prisoner. However, from the point of you accepting Jesus' death and resurrection, all Satan can do *now,* is try to get you to believe his lies and yield to his temptations. He no longer can force you, overwhelm you, or trick you into doing what he wants.

Willing To Accept Jesus' Authority

Mat 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." Jesus' death and resurrection set you free from the penalty and power of sin. **1 John 4:4 (NIV) You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because <u>the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world</u>.** So, **If God is for** you**, who can be against** you**?**

Here is the new rule (1 Cor 10:13 NIV):

1. **No temptation has seized you except <u>what is common to man</u>.** No unique, unusual, or never-heard-of temptations against you.

2. **God is faithful; He will not let you <u>be tempted beyond what you can bear</u>.** No overwhelming, impossible, or devastating temptations against you.

3. **When you are tempted, <u>He will also provide a way out</u> so that you can stand up under it.** No trapping, no way out, or imprisoning temptations against you.

Willing To Join Jesus

Jesus is asking you this builder-of-consistent-faith question. Anytime you feel doubt trying to come into your feelings and thoughts, you can join Jesus in asking yourself this question: **"If God is for** me**, who can be against** me**?"** Your confession of faith: "*No one*!"

God's Proof to You

Willing To Accept God's Sacrifice

QUESTION THREE: **Verse 32: He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, <u>how will He not</u> also with Him graciously give us all things?** This is the most powerful question of all! With your heavenly Father's great love for His Son, He would be the *last* thing God would be willing to give up. There is nothing or no one more important to the Father than Jesus. But, He allowed Jesus to come to earth to suffer and be sacrificed for your sins.

Willing To Accept God's Love
You can't find anything that would be more likely to be withheld from you. **He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for** you**, <u>how will He not</u> also with Him graciously give** you **all things?** This question can help you fight all doubt; if you experience something that seems to be heading in a bad direction, you can know for sure it will, at some point, be turned around for your good according to Romans 8:28. Why? Because Jesus paid for it!

Willing To Join Jesus
Jesus is asking you this question that is a builder of consistent faith inside you. Anytime you feel doubt trying to come into your feelings and thoughts, you can join Jesus in asking yourself this question: **He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for** me**, <u>how will He not</u> also with Him graciously give** me **all things?** Your confession of faith: "God *will*, with Jesus, graciously give me all things that are good for me!"

God's Attitude Toward You

Willing To Accept God's Grace
QUESTION FOUR: **Verse 33: Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.** When you accepted Jesus as your Lord, Savior, and King, you were forgiven of all your past, present, and future sins (1 John 1:7). This forgiveness means that your record was wiped clean. All the debts you owed God for the things you did to Him, yourself, and others were *justified* or cleared. The penalty you were to pay for these sins was rescinded and you were totally set free from all punishment. Then you were given a perfect record with God.

Willing To Accept God's Justification
The problem you face in spite of all that forgiveness is, you aren't living, and won't live a perfect life. You either are or will be doing things that would have brought you back under the penalty of sin. Salvation took care of all your past sins; but you need help with what you are doing now and will be doing in the future. Justification is a perfect record with God that is graciously applied to you. Even though you are doing things that you shouldn't and will do so in the future, justification is covering those too.

A Finished Work
Jesus' sacrifice was totally different from the sacrifices of animals in the Old Testament. **Heb 10:11-12 (NIV) Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; <u>again and again</u> he offers the *same* sacrifices, which can never *take away* sins. But when this Priest [Jesus] had offered <u>*for all time* one sacrifice for sins</u>, He sat down at the right hand of God.**

What Jesus did for you is finished. As you get forgiveness from Him for things you are doing now and will do in the future, that are not on purpose, you do them while having a perfect record with God. That keeps your relationship with God open, so you can grow in your relationship with God, yourself and others.

Willing To Join Jesus
Jesus is asking you this question that is a builder of consistent faith inside you, when someone falsely accuses you of something. Anytime you feel doubt trying to come into your feelings and thoughts, you can join Jesus in asking yourself: **Who shall bring any charge against** me **God's elect? It is God Who justifies** me. Your confession of faith: "*God is justifying me*!"

Overcoming Doubt
As Romans 8:31-39 continues to give you the questions to build your faith to a constant and unwavering condition, you learn how to resist doubts and fears. Keep answering these seven questions from a Biblical perspective and you will never doubt Jesus again.

Jesus Represents You

Condemnation Protection
QUESTION FIVE: **Verse 34: Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One Who died--more than that, Who was raised--Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us.**

Rom 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Soldiers die for you, to protect your freedoms; police die to protect you from evil people; firemen die to save you from burning buildings; but, none of these deaths were able to save you for eternity. Jesus died to save you from your sins *and* He rose to give you a new life. **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! The old has gone** because He died; **the new has come** because He rose from the dead.

Believing The Right Thing
Jesus is God; He is the One Who died for you; He is the One Who was raised from the dead for you. Who is going to have enough power or authority to say that the death and resurrection weren't adequate enough to cleanse all your past, present, and future failures? It isn't an issue of how bad you were, are, or will be; it is an issue of how powerful Jesus is. If you look at your weaknesses and failures, you will be overwhelmed. But, if you compare them with the incredible power, authority, and position of Jesus, you will believe.

Your Confession of Faith
So, if you start feeling like you have been separated from God, make this confession of faith: **"Who is to condemn** me**? Christ Jesus is the One Who died** for me**—more than that, Who was raised** for me**—Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for** me**."**

God Is More Powerful Than People

Power Over Your Enemies

QUESTION SIX: **Verse 35a: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

It is all wrapped up in the issue of your relationship with Jesus; once you get your faith locked into Him, you are able to trust His keeping power. You are able to believe everything He says; and, you are able to do everything He empowers you to do. But, if doubt or unbelief is able to creep in, then you have a breached relationship with Him. That is why this question is being posed to you; what do you believe? It is what you believe that makes the difference between you and Jesus. So, **"Who shall separate** me **from the love of Christ?"** You can answer this question by saying: "No one!"

God Is More Powerful Than Things

Power Over Your Circumstances

QUESTION SEVEN: **Verse 35b: Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?** This last question is asking you about your circumstances and how you will react to them. Will you allow **tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or a sword** cause you to doubt your love relationship with Jesus? It is asking you whether or not they have the power to separate you from Jesus' love. What do circumstances that come your way mean to you? Do they cause you to believe Jesus doesn't love you anymore?

It Will Turn Out Good

No matter how bad things seem to get, you can know that Jesus is going to *make* them work out for your good (Romans 8:28). As long as you don't have moments of doubt, He will come through for you and give you the blessings and miracles you need. But it is you that has to allow these questions to strengthen and support your faith. The way to allow these questions to strengthen and support your faith, is to *ask*, *seek*, and *knock.* That will get you the *way, truth*, and *life* of Jesus. He will come into your heart to not only save you but to empower your faith and make it constant.

Your Confession of Faith

So, if you start feeling like circumstances, bad events, or negative emotions are indicating that God has rejected you, make this confession of faith: I believe nothing shall be able to separate me from God's love including **tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword.**

Chapter Five
Seven Questions That Stabilize Your Faith - Continued

God Has Been Protecting You All Along

The seven questions have been covered. But the faith-building aspects of this passage are still being presented. So, let Jesus first show you how vulnerable you are, so you can appreciate an incredible mass of miracles He has been working in your life all during your life.

You Are Always in Danger

Verse 36: **As it is written, For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.** Right in the middle of all these great questions comes a couple of verses that shake things up a little bit. They address your inability to protect yourself. They also point out that you are incredibly susceptible to things that can hurt, damage, and kill you. As you take a look at this first verse, it can actually *create* fear and doubt; but, that isn't its purpose. You must see your vulnerability, so you can see God in it all.

You Are Always Being Protected

What this Scripture is actually doing is preparing you for seeing incredible miracles that you may not have even noticed. There are literally billions of things that could have happened to hurt and kill you over the years; but, they didn't! The thing you need to ask yourself is, with you so weak, frail, and easily hurt, damaged, and killed, why aren't you already dead? There is just one answer to that question--God! God has been literally working billions of miracles in your life. In one day's time, He works thousands of miracles just to keep you alive.

You Depend on It All

Don't Forget the Universe

Forget plagues, disasters, earthquakes, famines, pestilence, hurricanes and tornadoes, wars, and *big* threats to your wellbeing. What about those *really big* things that are going on all over your universe? You need a universe for your planet to exist in. You need a sun to keep you warm and give power to your plant life. You need a moon to keep stirring your oceans to keep them from stagnating. And you need a planet to live on. You need the other planets and the stars to stay away from hitting your planet. God has been doing all that for you.

Don't Forget the Small Stuff

No doubt you get the point that God is working billions of miracles all the time just to keep you alive. But, if you look way down where you live, there smaller things that are a threat to your wellbeing. There are poisons, too hot things, too cold things, sharp things, too acid things, too alkaline things, places where you could fall, things that could fall on you, fast moving things that could hit you, diseases that could attack you, and bad people who could hurt or kill you. Why are you still alive? God! He has been protecting you all along.

Here's Who You Are Believing In

He Is Bigger Than the Universe

Heb 1:2 (NIV) But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed heir of all things, and <u>through Whom He made the universe</u>. You have a universe that is not in ciaos because your God made it. Jesus made it, is in control of it, and is using it to prove to you that He loves you.

He Is God Over the Invisible

Heb 11:3 (NIV) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, <u>so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible</u>. Your universe was made out of invisible things. Now that you can see it, it will help you not draw the line at only believing what you see.

He Holds It All Together

Col 1:16-17 (NIV) For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, <u>and in Him all things hold together</u>. Jesus is holding the universe together! That ought to create some trust in Him. And, since He is doing such a good job of holding your universe together, it can help you trust Him for your smaller issues.

You Are *More* Than A Conqueror

Now You Are Becoming Victorious

Verse 37: ***No*, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.** It is just a two-letter word; but it's vital and most powerful in this instance. "*No*!" Your vulnerability proves how great God is. Now, let Him show you who He can make you. Since He has been keeping you alive all this time, find out why He kept you alive. Let Him start working with your constant faith and help you become successful in those areas where you have been struggling.

The Benefits Are Incredible

As these seven questions are used by you to allow Jesus to build and maintain a constant faith inside you, then you will move from survival to being *more than* conquerors through Jesus Who loves you. This battle, practice, and application of faith is well worth the effort on your part. As you learn to keep answering these seven questions from a Biblical perspective, you are pursuing Jesus by *asking* for Him, *seeking* Him, and *knocking* on His doors of ministry. As these questions keep being properly answered, your faith becomes unshakable. You and Jesus are locked into an eternal relationship that will help you reign with Him forever.

A Persuaded Faith

Results Of The Seven Questions

Verses 38-39: **For I am sure (persuaded or convinced) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in *all creation*, will be able to <u>separate us from the love of God *in* Christ Jesus our Lord</u>.**

You are now sure, fully persuaded, and totally convinced. This is a faith-condition that brings you into constant, stable faith in Jesus. It brings you into peace, joy, love, and a happiness that you have been seeking all the days of your life.

Realizing Your Limits
As you face death, you can be overwhelmed with fear. As you deal with the issues of life, you can be overcome by circumstances that try to destroy you. As you move into the spirit world, you face powers that are much too big for you to do anything about on your own. As you face the present and the future, you realize that you can't control them even with your very best efforts.

Refreshing Your Faith
The powers, heights, and depths of physical and spiritual issues and the things in all of creation are only in Jesus' hands. As you keep allowing these seven questions to make you sure, persuade you, and make you certain that none of these things can **separate** you **from the love of God in Christ Jesus** your **Lord,** you will have a wonderful relationship and a powerful faith that is solid, constant, and stable. If you find yourself struggling with your faith, just come back and strengthen that area of faith.

Repetition For Your Heart

Your heart is changed by constant exposure to something through repetition. It has to be convinced by your mind taking something it believes and exposing your heart to it over and over again. That is why you need to memorize these seven questions. You need to convince your mind; and then, as you face a challenging circumstance, keep repeating the Biblical answer to each of these questions. Once you have done this for a long enough period of time, your heart will start to believe in Jesus constantly.

Just Have Faith in Jesus
You don't have to believe that you are going to be okay. You don't have to believe that everything will work out fine. You don't have to believe that you will be healed or blessed. All you have to believe is that nothing is going to keep Jesus from coming through for you. If you try to set your faith on good circumstances, good provisions, positive solutions, or in healing for your body, your faith will be in the wrong place; and, this will cause you to fear and fail.

Limiting Jesus

These seven questions have to do with the love of Jesus for you. Their objective is to keep you convinced that nothing can separate you from His love. He is the One Who has all the knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power. You need to keep your faith in Him and trust Him to do what is best for you. If you start trying to believe for a certain thing, then you narrow your prayers down to just that one issue. If you are believing and trusting Jesus to do things your way, then you aren't giving Him permission to do the best things the best way.

Victory Through Consistent Faith
These seven questions are helping you believe that Jesus will do what is the very best thing for you, those around you, and for His plan. Things will *only* work out for your good when you are giving Him your permission to take them and work them out according to what He considers good. He knows your future; He sees the big picture; and He loves you more than you love yourself. Your life will continue to be victorious, and you will continue to be more than conquerors, for as long as you have total, constant faith in Him.

You need to believe Jesus' answer, for what is best for you,
is the only way to happiness.

If you keep totally believing in Jesus' love for you, you will be able to trust Him for everything you will ever need. You will never doubt for a minute that *He* is and will always bring the very best into your life and your eternity. Keep the seven questions handy, so you can feed your heart with their powerful truth.

Continue Growing with Jesus

Jesus' faith study has helped you have a powerful relationship with Him. Now you need to keep moving forward in your spiritual growth. The best thing is for you to be able keep working with Jesus in the Bible. Through the website, **wctlc.com,** Jesus provides powerful programs that He will use to guide you in a steady diet of powerful spiritual food. Just go to wctlc.com and select, "I would like to have *devotions* to do each day." Read the introduction and the instructions and Jesus will make sure you are given many opportunities to apply your new *constant* faith to spiritual growth. God bless you abundantly as you grow in Jesus.

A Great Prayer To Pray
Eph 1:17-19a (NIV) I keep asking that the God of my **Lord Jesus Christ,** my **glorious Father, may give** me **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that** I **may know Him better. I pray also that** my **eyes of** my **heart may be enlightened in order that** I **may know the hope to which He has called** me**, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for** me **who believes.**

This is a prayer that you can pray for yourself and others. It has been changed into your pronouns, so as to make it more intimate. It is a prayer that a person can pray, so Jesus can help make them ready for major spiritual growth.