

HOW TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

James 1:17; Hebrews 11:6

Introduction: To have the kind of "faith" that pleases God and brings a successful Christian life, God must be behind and intermixed with how one's faith is increased and/or strengthened. Satan doesn't want the believer's faith to be strengthened and he will do everything he can to distract, to bring down, to weaken the believer's faith in the things of God. Therefore the only way to strengthen one's faith is to do it God's way.

I. ONE NEEDS TO CAREFULLY READ AND MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

1. One becomes acquainted with the nature and character of God by getting into God's Word.
2. A person realizes God's holiness, justice and what a kind, loving, gracious, merciful, mighty, wise and faithful Father God is by studying God's Word.
3. It becomes clear that in poverty, affliction, death of loved ones, difficulties or financial needs, one can rest in the ability of God to help him/her.
4. Reading the Word of God, with meditation, is an excellent way to strengthen one's faith.

II. ONE NEEDS TO MAINTAIN AN UPRIGHT HEART AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE

1. A person needs to refrain from knowingly and habitually indulging in things which are contrary to the mind of God.
2. How can a person possibly continue to act in faith if he/she grieves the Lord and detracts from His glory and honor?
3. All one's confidence in God and all one's leaning on Him in the hour of trial will be gone if one has a guilty conscience and continues in sin.
4. If one cannot trust in God because of a guilty conscience, one's faith is weakened.
5. With every fresh trial, faith is either increased by trusting God and getting help or it decreases by not trusting Him. A habit of self-dependence is either defeated or encouraged. If one trusts in God, he/she does not trust in him/herself, his/her fellow persons, circumstances, or in anything else. IF one does trust in any of these, then one does not trust in God.

III. A PERSON SHOULD NOT BACK AWAY FROM TESTINGS OF HIS/HER FAITH

1. The more one is in a position to have his/her faith tried, the more that person will have the opportunity of seeing God's help and deliverance.
2. Every fresh instance in which God helps and delivers, will increase that person's faith.

3. The believer should not shrink back from situations, positions, or circumstances in which his/her faith may be tried, but should cheerfully embrace them as opportunities to see the hand of God stretched out in help and deliverance. Thus one's faith will be strengthened.

IV. ONE MUST LET GOD DO AND NOT TRY TO DO IT HIM/HERSELF

1. When a trial of faith comes, one is naturally inclined to trust in him/herself, friends or in circumstances. Most people had rather work out a deliverance, solution of his/her own than simply look to God and wait for His help.
2. If a person does not wait patiently for God's help, or if a person works out his/her own deliverance, then at the next trial of his/her faith, he/she will have the same problem. One will again be inclined to try to deliver him/herself, and with every fresh trial, one's faith will decrease.
3. If a person stands firm in order to see the work of God, trusting in God, alone, then that person's faith will be increased. Every time one sees the hand of God stretched out on his/her behalf one's faith will be increased even more.

CONCLUSION:

1. Take a good look at yourself - what do you see? Have you been trying to work things out by yourself when things get difficult? Or perhaps have you gone to God with your problems, but tried to help Him work things out? Or just maybe, you have learned to take your problems to the Lord and leave them there.
2. Are you satisfied with your level of faith? Want to strengthen it? Want to enlarge it? Then get into God's Word and let God have His way in your life.
3. Difficulties will come, sooner or later and your faith will be tested. Remember, difficulties can either weaken your faith or strengthen it. It's up to YOU which happens.
4. Study God's Word, keep your mind and conscience clear and clean, don't run from opportunities to have your faith tried, then let God do the work and don't try to help Him when trials do come.