

Faith: Believing the Word of God and acting on it, no matter how I feel, because God promises a good result.

1. The Word of God:

What does the Bible say about faith?

- Hebrews 11:1- A definition of what faith is
-“sure of what we hope for.” We have hope that we will be in heaven with Jesus, that God will work everything out for our good and His glory, and that the Holy Spirit will transform us to become more and more like Christ. Faith is being sure, certain, 100 percent positive, that these things will happen.
-“certain of what we do not see.” We do not literally see God moving, but know without a doubt that He is working in our lives, and in the lives of people around us.
- Matthew 17:20- Faith, or believe in God, is required. Only a small amount is required, but it is still a requirement. All throughout the Gospels we see Jesus commending people for their faith, and confronting others about their lack of faith. Faith, trusting in God, is essential, and is what pleases God. It is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6) because when we don't have faith we believe that we can do things on our own, and that there is not need for Jesus.

2. Acting on in, no matter how I feel, because God promises a good result:

- James 2:14-23
-we don't work in order to be saved, but we work because we are saved.
- In other parts of James, God calls us to reach out to the widows and orphans, and to keep ourselves polluted from the world. Do we have a faith that acts and does these things? Does our faith effect the way that we live our lives?
- Our faith should effect the way we live our daily lives. Because we have faith in this hope that we talked about before, we need to be obedient to the things that God has called us to in His Word. For example, some of these things are to be thankful in all circumstances, to pray all the time, to be sexually pure, to be joyful in all circumstances, and a lot of other things. Do we have a faith the produces these actions? Do we believe God enough to trust how He tells us to live, and to do what He tells us to do? God recently gave me an opportunity to have faith in what He tells us to do.
- Tell story about Vincent
- One of the ways that God calls us to take a step of faith is Baptism. Baptism is a public testimony of faith, and it is an act of faith in itself- it's the first thing that God calls people to do after they accept Christ as their Savior. We'll talk about that in a little bit, but lets look first at another way in which God calls us to have faith.
- Gospel invitation. We can have mountains of faith, but if it is in the wrong thing then the faith is worthless. We need to have faith in Christ for our faith to have any value.