

Becoming Faithful...

Paul said that righteousness is *“from faith unto faith”* (Romans 1:17). This suggests a developmental faith. The development of faith is illustrated in the lives of Jesus’ disciples in the Gospel of John. In chapter 2 after seeing the water changed to wine, John says, *“And His disciples believed on Him”* (v.11). Later in chapter 6 after many of the Jews, who had been following Jesus deserted Him; the apostles say, *“We have believed and know that Thou art the Holy One of God”* (v.69). Speaking of himself in chapter 20 when he saw the empty tomb it is said of John, *“He saw and believed”* (v.8).

Before John saw the empty tomb, he was not an unbeliever. His *“believing”* merely, indicates that his faith in chapter 20 is a lot different from his faith in chapter 2. It had developed and grown. Our faith and faithfulness develops in very much the same way.

Satan chips away at our confessed faith with untruth and deception. His goal is to capture our faith away from God’s word. He lied to Eve about not dying, and he lies to us about many things. He introduces the idea that maybe Jesus is not in control and that maybe the gates of hell are indeed going to prevail against the church—Christ’s body—after all. His goal is to get us to doubt Jesus’ promise.

On the other hand, Jesus seeks our faith. He says, *“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* *“These things”* spoken of by Jesus is all the physical necessities we need like food, clothing, and housing; which sometimes consume our lives as we worry about it. When you come to think about it, Jesus has really made a big promise here in Matthew 6! Listen to something else Jesus promised us: *“What then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”* (Romans 8:31-32).

I know what I need. I need a faith that will hang on to the promises, which are true, and which will recognize the deception of Satan no matter how bad it seems to get. This kind of faith is developed just as John’s faith grew and developed through his experiences with Jesus recorded in his gospel. When you and I remember to be faithful during the times when it is easy and sometimes even dull and boring, we will become prepared with a faith for the days when it will be difficult, hard and discouraging. Faith starts out small and weak, but in exercising it in everyday life, it becomes stronger and bolder. That is why being faithful in small things is so necessary so we can be strong for larger and more challenging things.

God develops our faith into a strong force, which will sustain us as we endure hard times; even times of trial and danger...even death. In addition, our fellowship in Christ is a fellowship of faith, which will endure the trying times as we stand together in the body.

Christians are full of faith (faithful) on the hard days because they are full of faith on the easy days.

I love you, and I am praying for your faith and mine.