

Faith in Singleness

Having Faith in God's Promises

A Devotional Study by Dana Wolf from TheSinglesTable.blog



Devotional



Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “being sure of things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.”

Faith is an intimate, personal trust that God is good and that He will do His good for us because He loves us. The word that is usually translated as faith in the New Testament comes from an ancient word that literally means “trust.” Hebrews 11 references many faithful people throughout the bible. From Abraham and Sarah to Moses to Rahab to David, we are reminded of the people who stood in faith and believed in God’s power, God’s promises and above all, God’s love for His children.

I often look at these histories as something to reinforce my own faith. I mean if the Hebrew people could have faith that God would set them free and trust Him by walking through the parted Red Sea, then surely I can keep up the faith that God will provide me with my basic needs and more. Unfortunately, I nearly always find this easier said than done.

It’s difficult to maintain the constant faith that we often see in the bible. People like Paul and the prophets often make me feel inadequate as a believer. I try my best, but always feel like my faith is never enough. When times are easy, my faith is still there, but not always at the forefront of my mind. When times are hard, my faith is there with more force, but I often find myself praying for God to deliver me from the circumstance and then depending on my own ability to do the work.

Henri Nouwen (a Dutch Catholic priest, theologian, and writer) said that “faith creates in us a new willingness to let God’s will be done.” How many times have you asked God to intervene or said that you’ve given something into His hands, only to hold back and keep a piece of it for yourself? I do that constantly. It’s not that I consciously believe that I could really do a better job than God, but I personally have a difficult time giving up control of things that bother me or things that I struggle with.





That's the thing about faith, God wants us to give things up to Him freely and without strings attached to the pieces that we'd rather deal with. I have a hard time asking for help, from most anyone. I don't know about you, but it just seems like if you want something done right, then you have to do it yourself.

This is, unfortunately the perspective that I take with most areas of my life. That's why it's so important to be in the word regularly and be in honest conversation with God. He made everything that you see. He also made all of the good things that we can't see in life like love, comfort, and joy. So in order to trust and believe in something that does physically exist, we tap into our faith that they were created by our all knowing, all loving, and ever present heavenly father, whom we cannot physically see.

Hebrews 11:3 states "It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God's command so what we see was made by something that cannot be seen." If we trust that God had the ability to make everything from the oceans to the mountains to you, then how can we not trust that He can work wonders in our lives? As we all struggle from day to day with the toils and challenges that life brings, it's important to believe in what we cannot see and have the faith that God is there, no matter what.



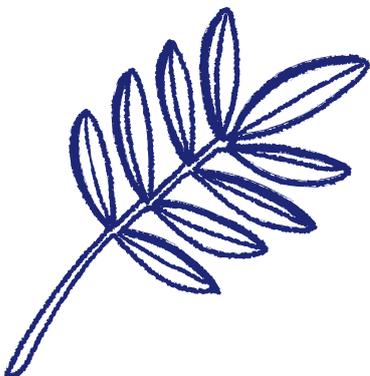
Reflection Questions



1. How would you describe faith to a non-believer?

2. Briefly describe a time when your faith felt strongest. What was the situation? How did you feel? What were you able to accomplish?

3. Briefly describe a time when your faith felt less than sufficient. What was the situation? How did you feel? Were you able to accomplish anything to change the situation?



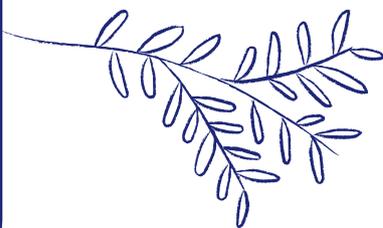


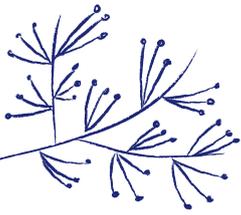
4. Read Hebrews 11:1. What does this verse mean to you and how does it apply to your life?

5. Read John 16:33. "In the world, said Jesus, you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" It takes faith to believe that God is good and that His goodness has and will continue to prevail. How does this verse give you hope and strengthen your faith?

6. What is one area that you regularly struggle in your faith?

7. What area(s) are you giving most of the situation to God, but keeping part of it for yourself?





8. As a single person, do you feel that your faith has grown through your time of singleness or has this time negatively impacted your faith? Explain.

9. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What is something that you can do to help increase your faith if you are struggling? Or what would you recommend to a friend who is struggling with their faith? How has your faith in God and His promises impacted your life?

10. Take a few minutes to write out a prayer to God about what your faith means to you or anything else that God has laid on your heart in this moment.

