

Strong in the Faith

Mark 9:23-24

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

One of the Best Ways to Strengthen Your Faith is

- Stay busy doing productive things
- When we are the most relaxed and busy pursuing leisure the devil is hardest at work in our lives.
- He is also there when we are exhausted and at our weakest points. Where we have been too busy to pray and meditate on God's words.

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them will have mercy.*”

Proverbs 28:13

How do we respond to our sins

- We rationalize them away. In so doing we use mans reasoning and refuse to agree with God.
- We get busy and try to ignore the problem and begin to feel like we are hypocrits. Busyness will not help an unproductive life.
- You compare your sin to someone else and think it isnt so bad.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

How should we respond to sin?

- We need to respond quickly to the urging of the Holy Spirit, sometimes upon our own conscience and sometimes, like with David, when a friend points out our faults.

Colossians 3:2-3 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Romans 6:11-15 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members *as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!*

Follow God's Lead – Have Faith!

- God Loves Us Unconditionally and is Faithful
- God wants to guide us down the path of Righteousness
- God's Spirit will lead us to all truth
- God has a purpose for our lives – even when we cant see it.

Sin Separates Us and Its Greatest Place to Attack is in the EGO

Proverbs 16:18

*Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.*

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

God leads a Submissive Heart

- Our problems aren't usually the result of hard things to know or understand where God is leading:
- Honouring your parents
- Choosing a godly mate
- Being sexually moral
- Being Honest
- Giving of your resources
- Living a life of praise
- Praying often
- Fellowshiping with other believers on the Sabbath

Harder things to know:

- Watching TV, Movies, Internet
- Listening to Music
- What House or Car to Buy
- What Career should I do

Does it have the power to control me?

Will it lead to greater maturity and love in Christ?

Will it violate Christ's lordship in my life?

What are my motives?

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Isaiah 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “*This is the way, walk in it,*” *Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.*

Isaiah 48:17 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: “*I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.*”

- Whenever I needed to know the will of God I found it in my life. However, when honesty of heart was lacking, or I followed the counsel of men instead of patiently waiting on God I made my largest mistakes.

I found the answer in this:

- I remove any of my own spirit and seek god's will.
- I make sure it is in accordance with the word of God so that I do not deceive myself into thinking it is God's will when it is my own.
- I pray often and long about it and consider where the opportunities lead me – sometimes fasting too.
- I counsel with other men of God.

Still having a hard time deciding?

- Have you confessed all your sins?
- Are you obeying Him?
- Are you willing to follow His desires?
- Are you praying specifically about it and studying God's Word? If not, start today.
- Have you asked other spiritually led people?
- Will it bring glory to God?

What destroys our relationships?

- Sin, anger, selfishness
- Being inconsiderate leads to being ungrateful and that leads to a host of lesser things
- In marriage the man is supposed to reflect the love of Jesus, be spiritually healthy, be considerate of her, demonstrate your love for her regularly

1 Peter 3:5,7 ⁵For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ...

Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Your Relationship with God depends on Your Relationships with Others

- Turn off the TV
- Talk with others
- Learn to be of comfort and help
- Turn your finances over to God
- Pray regularly for all things in life: food, friends and family, especially the family of God
- Pray that you put down roots in your family and in your community for God

God's Annual Revival - Passover

- John 15:5-8 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Putting on The Armor of God

- Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of **His might**. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Leave a Legacy

- I want to leave a physical legacy – a church, but more importantly I want to leave a legacy in my children, my faith in God. My father is dead and buried but he lives on because his faith still teaches and strengthens me today. The Fathers of the Faith in the Bible sometimes had horrendous worldly conditions around them but God was able to do powerful things in them because of their faith.
- What is God doing through you and through us today? It will be done in accordance to our faith.

Today is Our Day!

This is Our Time!

Will we continue the line of
Faithful Giants and Teach Others?
OR Will We Fail to Mature?

God gave you and I an annual
reminder to get our priorities right
and to be fruitful.

Lets make Dad proud!