

## HOW TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH

**Hebrews 11:6     James 1:17**

**Introduction:** We are always seeing advertisements on how to have a beautiful, muscular, strong body. Just buy this exercise machine or buy these special vitamins, eat only the foods from our special prepared menu or join our exercise program and in just 30 days you can have a body like you have always wanted. Sound too good to be true? Probably is. However there are things that we can do to make our bodies healthier and stronger which do work. The same is for our faith. There is no "30 day program" which will give us faith to move mountains or to walk on water but there are some things we can do which will definitely strengthen our faith and any Christian can do these things.

### **I. READ GOD'S WORD CAREFULLY AND MEDITATE UPON IT**

1. By reading the Word of God, we become acquainted with the real person of God, His nature and character.
2. As we read we become more aware of God's holiness, justice, kindness, love, grace, mercy, strength, wisdom and faithfulness.
3. We begin to realize that no matter the situation you get in, whether poverty, affliction, death of loved ones, difficulties, or financial needs, we can rest in the ability of God to help and meet whatever need we may incur.
4. Reading and thinking about God's Word is a wonderful way to strengthen your faith.

### **II. KEEP OUR HEART RIGHT AND MAINTAIN A GOOD CONSCIENCE**

1. We cannot live by faith if we keep on doing things that are contrary to the will of God, thus grieving the Lord and detracting from His honor and glory.
2. If we have a guilty conscience and are continuing in sin, our faith is weakened and confidence in God in a difficult hour will be hard to have.
3. Every time we are tried, our faith is either increased by our trust in God or it is decreased by our not trusting Him. If we trust God, then we don't need to trust in ourself, our friends, circumstances or anything else. For if we trust in any of these we are not trusting God fully and therefore our faith won't be increased.

### **III. DON'T BACK AWAY FROM THE TESTING OF OUR FAITH**

1. Experience as well as God's Word reveals that the more we are in positions to have our faith tried, the more opportunities we will have of seeing God's help in getting through the test. Every instance in which God helps, our faith will be increased.
2. Never back away from situations, positions or circumstances which may test our faith, on the contrary, look forward to them as opportunities to see God's hand stretched out to us in help and deliverance. Our faith will be strengthened.

### **IV. JUST LET GOD DO THE WORK, STAY OUT OF HIS WAY**

1. When difficulties come, it is only natural to trust our own skills first, then our friends and then the circumstances themselves.
  - We had rather work out our own problems than just turning them over to God and letting God work things out His own way.

2. Whenever we do not wait for God's help and work out our own difficulties, then whenever the next hard thing comes it will be only natural to try again to do it by ourself. With every new difficult situation and with the idea "I can do it myself" our faith will decrease, ou will trust in God less.
3. However, when we will turn everything over to God, get out of the way, and let Him work His way, our faith will be increased. Every time we see God's hand stretched out in our life, our faith will be increased more and more.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Everybody is guilty of trying to do things our own way, without any outside help. We never go to God until we have tried everything and talked to everybody we can think of who might be of help.
2. Have we ever given any thought to what we are doing to ourselves? DECREASING OUR FAITH! That's what we are doing. Refusing to involve God in our lives, then we get mad at Him when things don't go as we wanted them to.
3. Therefore, let us get into God's Word, learn who He is, what He is like, how He wants to help us and how to turn things over to Him.
4. Let's clean up our lives, confess all our sins, stop doing those things that offend God.
5. Let's stop running away from situations that will try our faith because every time we run away, we decrease our faith.
6. Let's get out of God's way and ask Him to take control of our difficult times and circumstances, and wait for Him to step in and work things out His way.
7. The amount and strength of faith that we have depends upon how much we know about God and how much we are willing to let God run our life.
8. Let's make up our minds right now to do whatever we have to in order to increase our faith to the level God wants us to have. Remember His story about a mustard seed sized faith?