



**Faced with a really difficult day?**  
**What does faith say?      What does faith do?**

**Is faith just for the big things in life, or is it for the small things as well?**



Living by faith is an approach to life. It expects God to do miracles on our behalf. It expects that there will be opportunities to serve God every day. It looks for good things to happen and believes that God will do the things that he has promised us.



Living by faith also expects that God will work in us and strengthen us so that we can face every situation and overcome every obstacle. Faith is an expectation of God in daily life.



*I can do everything through him who gives me strength..Philippians 4v13*  
*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 John 5v4*

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3v7*

**What does this verse have to do with living by faith?**



*What can the doubter expect to receive from God? James 1v6-7*  
 This does not mean that one moments doubt ruins years of faith. Rather that we must set our hearts to believe. True faith overcomes doubt.  
*"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9v24.*

Most of the time it is not even doubt that is the problem, it is still our refusal to use the faith that we have. This seriously limits the effectiveness of our ministries and blocks the move of the Holy Spirit in our lives.



**Do you think the enemy of faith is doubt or self reliance?**  
**Why then do you think that things that not are done by faith don't please God?**



**If the bible says that God will heal us?**  
**What does faith say?      What does faith do?**  
**What would be presumption in this situation?**



**Faced with the impossible**  
**What does faith say?      What does faith do?**

**When you believe God for something and nothing happens, what do you do?**

Faith is for what you can't see – not what happens immediately. Faith works in that time when nothing seems to be happening and it believe anyway. To this end faith needs to keep listening to God.



**Expect great things from God. Achieve great things for God.**

You cannot please God unless you exercise faith in daily living. This study was intended to clear away the mystic that surrounds a life of faith. Isaiah 7v9 says "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." You can avoid situations that require you to trust God for only so long. But it begs the question, why bother? Why settle for the ordinary when you can know the extraordinary? Why stay in the boat when you can walk on water.



**In what areas of my life might I need to exercise faith?**

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# FREEDOM

## Christian Church

### Living by Faith



What me? live by faith. Not a chance. I'm not quite sure what living by faith means, but I'm sure you need to be far more spiritual than I am to attempt it.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--Ephesians 2v8*

The bible tells us that we are saved by grace. Grace is God doing things that He does not have to and we don't deserve, in this case, God freely forgiving our sins and accepting us. But this grace is no good to us unless it is accepted by faith. Hebrews 4v2. Ephesians 2v8 tells us that even this faith is provided by God. Faith is very important to being a believer, even the word 'believer' is about the use of faith.



**Every Christian must live by faith.**

*"We live by faith", 2 Corinthians 5v7*  
*"The righteous will live by faith", Romans 1v17.*  
*"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2v20.*  
*"Everything that does not come from faith is sin." Romans 14v23*



**Living by faith**

Living by faith means two things (because faith can mean two things.)  
 Living by faith, means living accordance with what we have found to be true. - ie living a Gospel lifestyle. Living out, what we have come to believe about God. living according to our beliefs. Here faith is the faith a set of truths about; God, the world, sin, forgiveness holiness and ourselves, that are found in the bible.



**Why is this important?**

Living by faith means acting on what we know to be true even though we do not see it. This means basing our actions on faith, rather than the 'reality' we see around us. 2 Corinthians 4v18 & 5v7. Living by faith is putting our belief in God into practice in our daily lives.



**Faith is:**

Faith is believing in God.  
 Faith is taking God at His word.  
 Faith is believing what God has said.  
 Faith is believing what He has promised.  
 Faith, Trust, Believe, Biblical Hope.



**If the Bible says that God has forgiven our sins.**  
**What does faith say in reply?      What does faith do in reply?**



www.freedom.gen.nz  
 studies@freedom.gen.nz  
 Pastor Ray Moxham



If the Bible says that God will never leave us or forsake us.

**What does faith say in reply? What does faith do in reply?**

*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11v6*  
*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11v1*



**What kind of things do we believe but don't we see?**

**Why do you think faith pleases God?**

**How do you think God rewards those who seek him?**



If the Bible says that God will supply our needs.

**What does no faith say?**

**What does no faith do?**

**What does faith say?**

**What does faith do?**

The question what does faith do raises some problems. If you answered, "sit down and wait for God to drop it in your lap." Well sometimes He does, but often it is more complicated. God might provide a way for your needs to be met that requires you to do something. Faith is almost never doing nothing. As we will see latter the attitude that expects things to drop out of heaven might be something other than faith!



### Types of Faith

Saving Faith. The faith God gave us so that we could first believe in Him.

Serving Faith. The faith to live for Jesus every day and to do His will.

Special Faith. The faith to believe for a miracle.



Some people have the gift of special faith, 2 Corinthians 12v9. But all of us have a measure of faith that God has given us. Romans 12v3. This faith must be put into practice. Faith that says "God can work in me and through me, He is in control of every situation, I can trust Him."

*"For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Phil 2v13*

### Things that get mistaken for Faith



Positive thinking is not faith! Positive thinking is rooted in vague hope or optimism. "If only I have the right frame of mind everything will work out for the best." True faith sees the situation as it is, but trusts God any way.

**Did Abraham engage in positive thinking?** Romans 4v18-21



Presumption is faith exercised in disobedience. "I am going to follow such a course and God is going to have to sort it out." It assumes on God rather than trusting Him. Faith always acts in obedience. It is trying to force God to act according to our will, rather than getting in line with his will.

**If Jesus had thrown Himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple, would it have been a step of faith?** Matthew 4v5-7



Passivity is not faith either. Passivity is doing nothing. Refusing to do what we know to be right, sticking our head in the sand and then claiming, "I'm trusting God to work it all out for me," is just another form of presumption.

**What is the difference between "Don't worry, be happy" and Romans 8v28?**



Faith is based on God's word

Faith is based on who God is

Faith is based on obedience to God.

The disciples came to Jesus one day and requested "Lord, increase our faith." Luke 17v5. Jesus proceeded to tell them the parable of the mustard seed. The meaning of this parable is not that faith must grow, (although it must). It is that small sized faith has giant sized results. It is no good waiting till you have mountain size faith, you must use the faith you have. Exercising faith then is not for the "Spiritually mature" it is for everyone.



**How does faith grow?** Romans 10v17.

As you read the stories of people who trusted God (eg. Hebrews 11), as you read the promises God has made, as you learn more about God; Faith grows.

Faith grows as you use it and put it into practice. It shrinks if it remains unused.

If faith grows in use, then the size of our faith is not really the problem. It is releasing the faith we have that is important. It is not so much great faith that is required, as faith in a great God.



**How can faith be demonstrated?** James 2v17

Faith is practical not theoretical.

**What is presumption?**

**What helps faith grow?**



### Getting out of the boat

Some Christians spend a lot of time talking about faith, and their whole lives ensuring that they never need to exercise any! They make sure they are in control and never caught out of their depth. When the crunch comes they find they have no faith to see them through, because they have always avoided using faith.



**Read Matthew 14v25-33**

**Where Peter's actions rational?**

**Did Peter hear the word of God?**

**Why is this important?**

**Did he have faith?**

**Did he walk on water?**

**Why did he begin to sink?**

**What could have happened if Peter hadn't doubted?**

**When things went wrong how did Peter react?**

Eleven disciples sat safe and sound in the boat. They never sank. They never even got their feet wet. But they never knew what it was like to walk on water. To experience the thrill of hearing the Lord's voice and obeying. To step out in faith.



**How does this passage apply to us?**

**What might be our equivalent to stepping out of the boat?**

**What part does hearing God's voice play in trusting Him?**



### Faith moves mountains

*"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11v23*



**What mountains do you think might need to be moved?**

Faith is about hearing from God and doing.

Most of the time faith does not do for us, it enables us to do!