

## It's Time To Wake Up

### **The Passage:**

Romans 13:11-14

### **The Three Stages Of Faith:**

Acts 19

(1) **Magic Genie** God

I say a prayer and God **fixes everything**.

(2) **Cosmic Consultant** God

God gives good **advice** and **suggestions** to live by.

(3) **Lord** God

Whatever **God says**, **I do**, regardless of my **desires**.

### **Taking It Home:**

## Food for Thought for the week of July 16, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. Biblical faith doesn't mean we don't still struggle with doubt. Our trust and understanding of who God is, as the object of our faith, can either diminish or heighten the sometimes paralyzing affect of doubt. How might the following verses help build your confidence in God in the midst of doubt?

**Psalm 25:8** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

**Psalm 89:11** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>11</sup> The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;  
you founded the world and all that is in it.

**Psalm 145:9-10** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, LORD;  
your faithful people extol you.

**James 1:17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2. Living by faith is simply trusting God enough to do what he says. Faith has little to do with taking blind leaps and more to do with taking daily steps of obedience. Read the passages below and then take a minute to create a list of intentional faith steps that God asks all of his followers to take.

**Colossians 3:12-17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> 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.

**Psalm 15** *New International Version (NIV)*

*A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

<sup>2</sup> The one whose walk is blameless,  
who does what is righteous,  
who speaks the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup> whose tongue utters no slander,  
who does no wrong to a neighbor,  
and casts no slur on others;

<sup>4</sup> who despises a vile person  
but honors those who fear the LORD;  
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,

and does not change their mind;

<sup>5</sup> who lends money to the poor without interest;  
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things  
will never be shaken.

**Matthew 5:1-11** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount*

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

*The Beatitudes*

*He said:*

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Jesus said that we can be truly content, joyful or blessed when we have the character traits found in Matthew 5:1-11. How would you describe each of these traits in your own words? For example, what does it mean to be pure in heart?

What are some excuses that a Christian may give for not stepping out in faith in these areas?

What are a few risks or difficulties that you could still encounter as a result of taking some of these daily steps of faith?

Is there a step that you sense God wants you to take now?