

WHEN FAITH DOESN'T "WORK"

A QUICK LOOK BACK

The Kind of Faith That God Rewards

- ✓ Trusting God enough to **DO** what he **SAYS**.

Hebrews 11:1-40

WHEN FAITH DOESN'T "WORK"

Five Important Things My Sunday School Teachers Never Told Me About Faith

- (1) Faith doesn't always "work" in the **SHORT RUN**,
or even the **LONG RUN**.
Hebrews 11:4,13-16, 20-22, 32-39/ Revelation 6:9-10 & 21:1-5/ Psalm 73/ 1 Peter 5:4
- (2) Faith is the **MAP THAT GUIDES** us,
not a **POWER THAT RESCUES** us.
Hebrews 11:35-40/ 1 Corinthians 10:13
- (3) The measure of our faith is **OBEDIENCE**,
not **EARTHLY OUTCOMES**.
Hebrews 11:39/ Judges 1:19/ 1 Peter 4:12-13/ Matthew 5:11 & 10:22
- (4) In most cases, we don't need **MORE FAITH**.
We need more **OBEDIENCE**.
Luke 17:3-6
- (5) God is **GOOD** no matter **WHAT HAPPENS**.
1 Peter 4:19/ Exodus 12:40/ Job 1:20-22 & 2:9-10/ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 & 11:23-29

Food for Thought for the week of June 3, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

There's no question that at times it can seem like our "faith" isn't working. Fortunately for us, God remains the same. Remembering who he is, how he works and what he's done is all part of keeping perspective in life's ever-changing expectations. What hope, promise and/or directive to live by do the following verses give us as we deal with life's circumstances while following Jesus?

1 Peter 1:3-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Proverbs 3:5-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart

and lean not on your own understanding;

⁶ in all your ways submit to him,

and he will make your paths straight

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;

fear the Lord and shun evil.

⁸ This will bring health to your body

and nourishment to your bones.

Romans 8:15-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Present Suffering and Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Psalms 147:11 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹¹ the Lord delights in those who fear him,

who put their hope in his unending love.

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Romans 15:13 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:3-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

Confirming One's Calling and Election

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Looking back at what you wrote above, which verses would be the best ones for you to remember every week for the coming month? Take some time to pray and ask God to help you remember the reality of the verse you picked.