

The Audacious Potential of Faith

*Start by doing what's necessary;
then do what's possible; and suddenly
you are doing the impossible.*

—Francis of Assisi

The Bible teaches that love and faith are the two essential virtues for Christians to do any good work. “Now without faith it is impossible to please him” (Hebrews 11:6). Therefore, we must live lives of faith—daily faith. It is a requirement for anything eternally good, a necessity of God’s glory. Therefore, faith is a “line in the sand.” Our minds, hearts, and actions must be governed by it. If we are maturing properly in the Lord, every one of us should become more conformed into the image of the Son. As we trust God for this conformity, growth and maturity will result. With maturity, we will place more trust and faith in God. Our aim is the *complete transfer* of trust and faith from ourselves to our loving Creator God, because “our only qualification is, We need Him.”¹¹

Armed with this understanding, we can accomplish the grandiose, the audacious things of God (cf., Ephesians 3:20). Jesus described this faith to His followers as mountain moving faith (cf., Matthew 17:20). Do you believe

¹¹ Steve Addison, GACX Compelled Conference (Denton, Texas), Sept. 26, 2019.

this today? Have you stopped believing it? One of the most heart wrenching experiences is to see Christians who don't believe they can accomplish wonderful things for God. Some have never learned to have faith that God could work through their lives to do the unimaginable. They don't believe that "with God all things are possible!" (Matthew 19:26). They have not bought into what William Carey believed, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

Recorded in the Gospels are two instances where we read Jesus was "amazed" at people. One instance was by witnessing great faith and the other by the lack of faith (cf., Matthew 8:10; Mark 6:6). As Christians, we will have doubts in our lives. These doubts usually spring up when: 1) we have failed morally, 2) when we are fearful of responding to God's call on our life, or 3) at times of major stresses. Be aware of these times. These will be times for you to "press into" God with faith instead of doubt or fear.

Faith Must be Cultivated

We wish faith would flood into our lives with simple prayers; instead, it must be kept in its daily, rightful focus with great spiritual intentional energy. We must rely on God every day. Faith must be *shored up* daily and weekly through actively, purposefully involving God in our lives. We must also continually cleanse our minds of doubt through the Word, prayer, and humble living.

God Will Lead Through Faith

As our godly abilities and aptitudes increase in our lives, faith must increase all the more. Faith must remain ahead of our experiences, educations, talents, networks, charisma, and every other humanly developed characteristic. If our faith doesn't outpace our human abilities, there is a real tendency to continue to live in the safety of those abilities. We then may stop exercising faith. The more natural talent we have been given, the more intentional we must be in relying on God. We need to agree with Paul, for we are "the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, exult in Christ Jesus, and do not rely on human credentials"

(Philippians 3:3b). There is no room for faith for those who will keep their confidence in their achievements, pedigree, personality, and abilities.

Faith in God is a Key to Joy

One can find no more joy in the world than when he is in the center of God's desires for his life by faith. Ask people who know these things and learn from them. Then take courage to give your life to God in faith. The things God may do with a person committed to Him through bonds of love and faith are incomprehensible.

Faith must be "hard-wired" and purposefully thought about in all of our plans and actions. What are you trusting God to do right now *that is impossible for you to accomplish*? If you cannot answer that question, are you really living in daily faith? "Now to him who *by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think*, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21). We should ask God for things that require faith and trust Him for things only He can accomplish. This demands we think about "impossible" things (humanly speaking), for nothing is impossible to God (Matthew 19:26).

By faith we must continually strive to be utterly dependent on Him. We need to be in constant consultation with God. We should be reading His word daily and praying the prayers that in hope, look for God to act through our lives.

The past great people of faith cared about the things of God: the gospel going to the nations, people being discipled, burdens being lifted, holiness being realized, revival in the Church, living in contentment and reliance. But they also thought not only of the grand but even the possibilities of life changing events that may come from simple gestures such as showing hospitality or visiting someone in the hospital. People of faith believed these things because they knew that God would use them for His glory and kingdom work far beyond their understanding. They knew that God could accomplish much—even in the little acts of grace that they did.

Let God write the history of your hopes and heart, and you concentrate on elevating your expectations in Him. A life of faith is waiting for you. Are you

THE WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

ready for it?

Scripture Passages

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 21:18-22

Mark 11:19-25

Luke 7:1-10

John 14:5-14

Questions

- 1) In what areas of your life do you experience continued doubt(s)?

- 2) What are you trusting God to do right now in your life? In other words, where are you exercising faith now? If the answer is “nothing,” are you living a life of faith?

- 3) Are you praying for things that will not be fulfilled in this lifetime? What are they?

THE AUDACIOUS POTENTIAL OF FAITH

Aim Point

1) List some things right for which you should be trusting God.

2) Pray for these things daily this week.