


**FAITH FACTOR:**  
**#1 – HOW TO DEVELOP A FAITH THAT WORKS**  
**HEBREWS 11:1**

*Intro: Does faith confuse you? Do you struggle with your faith in God? Here's how you can develop a faith that works.*

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*

**I. Know What Faith Is**



***Faith*** (Gr. πιστις) – A firm conviction, complete trust in, and commitment to God. “Believe” (Gr. πιστευω) has the same meaning in verb form.

- ***Our faith is in God's character – Who He says He is; and His \_\_\_\_\_ – what He says He will do.*** This faith gives basis to our hope in God.
- ***Faith is not in what we can \_\_\_\_\_ in earthly terms, both logically and experientially.*** God cannot be subjected to scientific lab experiments to prove He exists. Spiritual reality is intangible.
- ***Faith is much more than simply an intellectual belief that a God exists. It is \_\_\_\_\_ your life to Him; and committing ourselves to His Person, will and ways.*** Faith requires action in our lives – faith-action (John 13:17). We must walk by faith.
- ***Our faith is seldom \_\_\_\_\_ all the time. It grows and diminishes.*** With God's help, we must strive to grow our faith. (Mark 9:23) Faith is both our work and God's empowering gift.
- ***Through our faith, we experience God, His kingdom \_\_\_\_\_, and we are used for God's kingdom advance.*** (Matthew 13:58; Matthew 17:20)

*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 11:6*

**II. Know What Faith Is Not**

- \_\_\_\_\_ ***giving advise and consent*** – Our faith is not subject to your reason's approval, or shaped and limited by your intellect. Faith trumps reason.
- \_\_\_\_\_ ***dancing for joy*** – Our faith should not be fueled by our excited emotions, for when our emotions crash, so will our faith. We should have faith, whether we feel like it, or not.
- ***Laziness, \_\_\_\_\_, and resignation*** – We should not use faith as an excuse to be lazy and passive, expecting God to do it all. Often, we must do our part in God's work in our lives.
- ***Not believing God can, but God \_\_\_\_\_*** – Our faith means we believe that God has the potential, but He has already willed, and will accomplish His will.
- ***Our own desires \_\_\_\_\_ God*** – We cannot force God to do our own wants and wishes by believing He will. This is not faith, but presumption and manipulation.

### **III. Ways to Develop Our Faith**

- ***Know, believe, and*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***God's written word.*** The more we immerse ourselves in God's written word, our knowledge and understanding of God, His will, and ways will grow; and living it will increase our faith. (John 15:7)
- ***Seek faith-inspiring*** \_\_\_\_\_ – When we watch others respond with deep trust in God in a variety of circumstances, our own trust in God will be strengthened. (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:10-11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ ***God's past faithfulness*** – As we remember how God was faithful to His character, will, ways, and promises to us in the past, we can trust Him in the present and future. Strive to remember and celebrate those events in your life. (Psalm 77:11-12)
- \_\_\_\_\_ ***your faith beyond your comfort-zone*** – As God leads, stretch your faith with new challenges beyond what you thought you could do. When God gives you spiritual success and growth, your faith grows. If your spiritual life has been comfortable, your faith is not growing.

***How's your faith? Does it need to grow?***

***Answers: I. Promises; see; entrusting; 100%; riches. II. Reason; emotions; passivity; will; manipulating. III. Live; role models; remember; stretch.***

#### **Inner Action – Applying These Truths Today**

- 1) In the past, what have you understood faith to be? What did you learn that was new about faith?
- 2) Do you depend on your excited emotions to grow your faith? Does your logic “trump” your faith?
- 3) In what areas of your life do you struggle with your faith in God?
- 4) What ways to develop your faith do you need to practice?