

faith

A QUIET TIME DEVOTIONAL

PHENOMENELLE LIFE
Edited by Danielle Ngwana-Joseph

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A special thank you to each woman who contributed to this devotional and shared her reflections, experiences and thoughts on faith.

special note

This devotional was created with **YOU** in mind! Yes, you reading this.
It was created to help you develop your faith, protect it, nurture it, water it
and show it the care and love it deserves.

Just like a mustard seed, your faith starts out small but has all the potential in the world to
grow, thrive, fulfil and sustain you throughout life.
Be encouraged to take care of your faith - it's what you'll stand on during the good times and
the hard times.

The reflections written in this devotional are intended to help you consider
where you currently stand in your faith and to encourage you to nurture your faith.
For some of you, this devotional will give you the opportunity
to rekindle your faith or remember what made you first believe.

For those starting out in their journey of faith,
take intentional steps daily to build yourself and your faith.
For those somewhere in the middle of their journey,
let the words in this devotional serve as a reminder
to continue believing God, continue loving Him
and continue trusting Him.

Remember, never despise small things.
Some of the greatest, most wonderful creations
that we experience in life began as a seed.

So, to you reading this, remember that faith is the foundation to build on.

Sow in faith.

Trust in faith.

Love in faith.

Invest in faith.

Hope in faith.

Build in faith.

Have faith.

All you need is a little faith.

prayer of faith

Dear Lord Jesus,
I come to you asking you to help me believe.
Lord, please grant me a believing heart.
May I stand firm in your promises and your words as written in the Bible.
Help me to remember that through you all things are possible.
Help me to overcome fear and be rooted in faith.
In your name I pray.
Amen.

Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead.
I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life.
I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour.
In Your Name I pray.
Amen.

faith scriptures

Read through these scriptures to encourage you in your faith.

DEUTERONOMY 31:6
2 CHRONICLES 20:20
PSALM 9:10
PSALM 31:24
PSALM 46:1-11
PSALM 119:30
PSALM 120:1
ISAIAH 41:10
JEREMIAH 29:11
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23
MATTHEW 11:28
MATTHEW 17:20
MATTHEW 21:22
MARK 5:6
MARK 9:23-24
MARK 10:27
MARK 10:52
MARK 11:22-24
LUKE 1:37
LUKE 7:50
LUKE 17:5
JOHN 3:16
JOHN 6:29
ACTS 14:22
ROMANS 1:16-17
ROMANS 5:1-2
ROMANS 10:10
ROMANS 10:17
ROMANS 12:12
1 CORINTHIANS 2:5
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7
GALATIANS 2:16
GALATIANS 2:20
GALATIANS 3:9
GALATIANS 5:22
EPHESIANS 2:8-9
EPHESIANS 3:17-19
PHILIPPIANS 4:13
2 TIMOTHY 4:7
HEBREWS 11:1
HEBREWS 12:2
HEBREWS 11:6
JAMES 1:2-6
JAMES 2:14
1 PETER 1:6-7
1 JOHN 5:4
JUDE 1:20-2

mustard seed faith

Danielle Ngwana-Joseph

If you've not read the Parable of the Mustard Seed, I'd like to share it with you.

You can find this parable in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

It's a short story reminding us of the impact of small things and highlights the beauty of small beginnings.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

"And He said "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use to illustrate and explain it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when it is sown on the ground, even though it is smaller than all the [other] seeds that are [sown] on the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden herbs; and it puts out large branches, so that the birds of the sky are able to make nests and live under the shade."

Mark 4:30-32 AMP

This is a special reminder for you:

Your faith may start out small, but sometimes, it's the smallest of things that have the power to become and provide the biggest blessings. Just as a seed is rooted in the ground, let your faith be rooted in God the father, Jesus Christ the son and the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes faith is all you have. But dear friend, be at peace at all times, because faith is all you need.

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain,

'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20 NIV

**“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”
1 Corinthians 16:13**

Millie Ellison

I think it's interesting that God warns us to be on our guard before He begins to address our faith. This leads me to believe that there will be circumstances that will arise, that will attempt to rob us of our faith and strength.

If you've lived past the age of five, the chances are that you have experienced some form of difficulty or trauma. In those moments, the most natural thing to do is to focus on what you see around you, and it's highly likely that all you'll see is things not working out. So what does this do? It takes away from your faith, and slowly your hope begins to dwindle. Day by day as nothing changes, we begin to make peace with the idea that our difficulties may never change. We make peace with the idea that God may never show up, and that's okay because you'll still serve Him, you'll still do all the Christian things you're supposed to do, but in your heart, that little light, that hope, that faith, has been snuffed out.

Whatever it is you are going through; I want to encourage you to have faith. I'll explain why. Although things around you may not be great, the bible says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for" (Hebrews 11:1). It means that if you are expecting a new job, a new bae, a new home, financial stability, children, whatever it is - your faith is the building material God will use to create what you desire. Remember, without faith, it's actually impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

So be on your guard. Don't look at what you see happening around you. I know it's hard, but fix your eyes, and your heart on the One who is able to change the direction of your life at any moment. **Be courageous.** Get up every day and do life. Do not let anyone, or anything steal your joy. Push yourself to do better, achieve your goals and be strong. **Be firm. Put all of your hope in Jesus.**

As you pray today, I want you to tell God everything you are hoping for. Tell Him you are trusting Him. Remind Him of His promises and then rest and let Him work. In the end it will be okay. He is working out everything for your good (Romans 8:28).

When it is all said and done, you will have more than you could ever dream of (Ephesians 3:20).

Believe it!

faith is assurance

hope

joy

peace

confidence

help

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance,
kindness, goodness, faith,”
Galatians 5:22**

Edith Osei-Acheampong

I remember coming across this scripture during a series taught during Sunday services a few years ago. I really wanted to understand what it means to have the Holy Spirit, be in the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit and to receive the Holy Spirit. As much of a contradiction this may sound to an unbeliever, I am a realist. I want to see evidence, feel evidence, smell evidence and touch evidence. I want it to be tangible to me. So that is why my Faith in God, is one of the greatest and most precious things in my life as it is the only thing I cannot see, touch, feel or smell, but I very much know is as present in my life as are the clothes in my wardrobe, the cup of water on my desk, the smell of my favourite perfume and the physical touch of my loved ones.

Notice that the scripture says the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit, not FRUITS; it is not a plural term. I cannot claim to be loving, patient, kind and have self control if I have an ounce of doubt of faith or if I am not patient or if I have no joy. They all work conjointly in hand to form together the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I believe through Faith all things work for us according to God's perfect will for our lives (Romans 8:28).

If you have faith, inevitably comes love and trust which in turn comes a sense of peace as you have no worry as you have surrendered that to your maker. You rely on God's timing (patience) and you exercise self control by not jumping into the things YOU want to do, rather waiting on what God is going to do. Joy comes in the morning, afternoon and night because you are rest assured that God wants to see you happy and thriving at the end of it all which makes you gentle (calm in approach) to receiving what He has for you.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you in all things (nothing is too small for your God!). **Trust in God.** Wait for Him to do what he needs to do. **Constantly ask.** And then leave it in the hands of God. Don't dwell on it. Don't ponder on it. Just wait on God to do His thing and be ready to celebrate and give your triumph dance! **He can & He will do it.**

Faith is one of those reoccurring topics in the Bible and in your Christian walk you will always come across it. You can have a strong matter of faith in one area in life and be seriously lacking in another. This can be due to a number of things i.e. unbelief, doubt, fear, hurts, disappointments etc. My pastor always says just because you have read a book from front to back doesn't mean you know exactly what the book is trying to tell you. Even now, I find myself re-reading books that I have read a year ago and the new set of revelations and understanding that comes to me is amazing. Why? Because my mind has developed since that time.

My circumstances have changed since that time. My focus is entirely different. My pastor always says we should "soak the book" which is a phrase I think can be used to describe Faith if it were a book. **You need to soak Faith!** You can read every bible study, hear every preacher preach on Faith, listen to every lyric in a song which talks about Faith, but the same faith you had when you first gave your life to Christ X amount of days, weeks, months, or years ago differs from this very moment today, and will differ from the same amount of faith you will need to have in a year, a month, a week, a day and in decades to come.

faith is a constant
continuous
renewal of assurance
in God

**“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”
Romans 10:17**

Nicole Etchie

How audacious are you?

Faith to me is hope, it's belief, it's the feeling of being totally secure in God's promises. The closer I am to God, the further I dive into His Word, the more my faith is strengthened. I am saved because of faith, I have this faith because at some point in my life I heard the word of God - just like you. In this verse Paul makes it crystal clear that in order for one to have faith, they must first hear it. As Christians we have been given the most gracious honour to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15) an opportunity to speak about the uncountable, immeasurable riches of Christ.

Remember Cornelius? The God-fearing centurion who had a shocking visit from an angel. The angel did not preach the gospel, but directed Cornelius to Peter who could preach the gospel (Acts 10). This is because angels are unable to preach the gospel, they can do so many wonderful things but not this. God has given that privilege to you and I. He wants us to be involved in His work, the building of His kingdom. We have a role in our Good Father's business and it is a privilege! It is only by God's grace that we are able to. Preaching the word of God is manifesting that sweet grace despite it all. Sometimes we take this privilege way too lightly.

Picture this - Bill Gates calls you and says "come and help me build my business". One of the greatest minds on this earth wants your assistance! Would you not be completely in awe? Would you not be feeling yourself? So understand this; God Himself has called you to build His Kingdom! The creator of all things in this Universe has called you to be His worker. Remember this, keep this mindset, because honestly how can you not be euphoric about walking in this grace and preaching the word of God - It's a big deal! Congrats.

Now, knowing we have a great duty to build God's kingdom we need to preach the word of God so it can be heard. Romans 10:14 puts it perfectly, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?". These are rhetorical questions because there simply is no way! We are the preachers and teachers! Obeying this calling means being verbally audacious about Christ because the one and only way for people to access faith and be saved is for them to hear the Word of God.

The question is; how audacious are you in your Father's business?

faith is the feeling of
being totally secure in
God's promises.

**“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept
the faith.”
2 Timothy 4:7**

Diana Eboegbulem

Faith literally means belief and to believe is to trust. When I gave my life to Christ, I was at the point of hopelessness, lost in the world trying to find my path in life. Re-discovering God allowed me to find hope and trust. I understand God for myself through the Bible as a solid rock; an unchanging force that stays true to His promises over our lives (Numbers 23:19). In the process my faith grew. As I uncovered the nature of God, I began to believe I will finish the race of life well and so far I can testify that God has never failed me. My faith has literally equipped me with the courage to **fight the good fight**.

See, as a child, I was in physical fights, none of which I initiated. However, the experience taught me two things; fighting is ugly and people only care who wins. A revelation that applies to our lives - we will face moments of trials. It's a part of life whether you believe in God or not. In life there are trials, -bruh- take corona for instance; ain't nobody saw this coming, I digress. The point being, in life's race there are difficulties, but with God, you have a guaranteed win no matter the obstacles. By attaching yourself to God, knowing Him more through the Bible, He will set you on course in the path predestined for you, equipping you to finish your race well. For **your life is no accident**. The bible says that God knew us before we were in our mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5). **You were set apart for such a time as this**. How beautiful to know that the creator so high and powerful cares this much for you.

Walking with God to me is a breath of fresh air. Knowing that I run the race of life with the creator of the universe feels like having life's cheat code. Like I said, it doesn't mean everything is smooth sailing, there are still times I feel helpless because my faith has wavered, but it's just remembering to trust in God even in those moments. See the speaker in this verse Paul, was close to death, having already suffered and been unfairly imprisoned, it would be expected for him to give up. But here he reminds us, that the fight of hard times produces goodness when we persevere holding onto our faith in God our rock, confidently, trusting that he who began the race will see it to completion as promised (Philippians 1:60).

So, my encouragement today and every day for all of us, is when troubles come, let's take heart, trusting in the Almighty God, for His plans for us are always good (Jeremiah 29:11) and greater than we can imagine (Ephesians 3:20). For the race of life is not a sprint, but a relay. We run also for the lives attached to ours; that's why we have to finish well, not only for our sake but for the sake of those who God wants to use us to impact. So, seek to discover God more through the Bible. Align yourself with Him. Build a relationship and discover who you are and the course He has set for you, and **grow in faith**. Rest assured that even in trials you can take heart, casting your worries onto God (1 Peter 5:7) who is always with you, strengthening you till the end (Deuteronomy 3:16), completing the good race he set you on (Philippians 1:6).

So, fight the good fight, don't get caught up in the hype of the race that you forget to pass on the baton. Stay the course, and **finish strong!** Grow in faith by building a relationship with God, accessing the phenomenal life He is eager to give you. Remember the life of Jesus Christ; the good news is the perfect picture of running your race and winning is an anchor for us all as we run our own. Try this exercise, next time you feel weary say **“God put me here, so I will finish”**.

*a life well-lived
is one lived with faith*

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
Galatians 2:20

Sophie Arinde

How much faith do you have in Christ? How much do you believe that He lives within you?

Those are questions we should always consider when we find ourselves facing personal challenges. It can be so easy to doubt ourselves and doubt God. Instead of walking in boldness and faith, we reside in worry and timidness. When knocked down, we can sometimes forget who God is and allow negative self talk to consume our minds. We forget that it is no longer ourselves who live, but Christ who lives within us.

Whenever you feel beaten down, lost, confused or worried, remember that it is Him who is within you. Only Jesus can give you the strength to move forward and conquer whatever it is you are facing. Whether you are dealing with a lack of boldness, shame, regret or pain, He will guide you forward. Jesus will put together the broken pieces of your heart and make it whole. He will give you the confidence to step out and make a change. He will not let you fall. He loved us first and gave himself for us!

Make the decision to step into the power Christ gives you today. Your 'old self' was abandoned the minute you accepted Him into your life. Learn to walk in the faith, hope and love that you receive in Him, and remember that He dwells within you. Jesus is not a distant figure we have to search for. He is right here, and is waiting for you to depend upon Him. He has never left you.

Reflection:

- Are you lacking boldness in any area?
- How much faith do you have in Christ?
- When you are faced with a challenge, how much do you depend on Him?
- How can you demonstrate that Christ dwells within you to others?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I am thankful for your Word and the promises you keep. I pray that I can trust in your Word and trust that everything it says about me is true. I ask that as I step into this world, I walk in faith and remember that it is You who lives within me. I pray that I no longer hold on to my past mistakes or fears, and instead walk in boldness and confidence, because my old self was crucified with Christ. **I want to walk in the new identity you give me today.**

In Jesus' name

Amen

faith is freedom
love
compassion
peace
trust

“Yes,” said Jesus, “if you yourself can! Everything is possible for the person who has faith.” The father at once cried out, “I do have faith, but not enough. Help me have more!”
Mark 9:23-24

Dilys Opoku Akyeampong

When we think about faith, our minds quickly skip to Hebrews 11:1, right? From here we get a great and complete definition, but how many of us actually “live” this scripture? Do we honestly have “confident assurance in what we hope for”? Does the “evidence in things we cannot yet see” really exist in us? I have decided that, rather than just explaining faith, I want to also highlight how, through Jesus, we obtain and build it so that we can truly live the Hebrews 11:1 way. Hebrews 12:2 NLT calls Jesus the “champion who initiates and perfects our faith...” as such, He is the foundation of faith and the only one who can give it, grow it and sustain it. As Psalm 121:1-2 says “I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? My help comes from the LORD, who made the heavens and the earth.”

Faith doesn't come from any external thing/being; it comes from the Creator! The One who MADE what you are trusting, believing and hoping for. Jeremiah 33:3 MSG says “call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvellous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.” Today's world champion "self" above everything else. SELF-help is the go-to for everything; but faith is, and has always been, something that we cannot obtain or sustain alone. Understand that **Faith is GOD's yes**, and what He says He will do, He will; however, the manifestation of His “yes” happens in His time so you NEED to ASK HIM for help through the wait and navigating everything that comes with it. To me, one of the greatest examples of Christ as the foundation of faith, and the One we need to lean on, comes from Romans 10:17 which says “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by (or through) the Word” and according to John 1:14, Jesus Christ is the “Word made flesh”. Why I love Romans 10:17 and see it as one of the most important scriptures when dealing with the topic of faith is because it's like the ultimate “cheat code” for us as Christians. By hearing through the WORD, and not your own understanding, you are activating and sustaining your belief in GOD's ability to bring forth what has not yet happened – which can be extremely difficult when everything is pushing you towards doubt. When we fix our minds on what “the Scriptures say” as Jesus did in Matthew 4:4 and 4:7 we can counter every “you can't” with an **“I can do all things THROUGH CHRIST who strengthens me”** (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

Faith-through-Christ lets your brain rest. Humanly speaking we can't do it all, and sometimes even trying to rationalise the “how” leaves us burnt out and stressed, but “all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23 NKJV). When we simply believe we move ourselves out of the way and trust **GOD** to do what He has said and promised to do! King David was a great example of one who trusted **GOD** to do just what He said He would, whether **GOD's** plan seemed outlandish and impossible or like something his own human strength could handle. In 2 Samuel 5:23-24, King David sought **GOD** before a battle and was given a step-by-step play on how to win. What I love, though, is that this battle was with enemies that he had fought before (and had defeated) and could easily have believed that he could defeat again; but King David understood that you always gain by seeking **GOD**, even in things that you are capable of doing alone or have experience in. So, what are you waiting for? Whether it's faith for the things that seem too-good-to-be-true or more faith in areas your strength can already handle, speak to **GOD**!

Faith is GOD's yes. He has “made these plans. No one can stop [Him] now” (Isaiah 14:27 CEV). Trust Him to hold your hand through the process and to “lead you along the best pathway for your life” (Psalm 32:8 NLT).

faith is God's yes!

Jesus said to the woman, "Your **faith** has saved you; go in peace". Luke 7:50

Princess Curtis-Broni

The word Faith is multifaceted. The foremost and simplest meaning of Faith to me is the central belief that Jesus is the Son of God. Moreover, Faith, to me, means believing in the finished work of Jesus Christ, cleaving to the word of God, and adhering to the precepts and laws of the Holy One. Faith, to me, also means relying and depending on the guidance, leading and teaching of the Holy Spirit, while trusting in God to protect, preserve, provide for and strengthen me in all things.

Faith is the foundation of all things pertaining to Christ. Not only is Faith in Christ the starting point of our relationship with God, it is also the high point, the pinnacle of our walk with God. Jesus came to give. He came to give us eternal life (John 10:28-30), hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11), peace (John 14:27) and so much more. However, it is impossible to receive from something or someone that you do not believe or trust in.

We cannot receive Christ into our hearts or welcome Him into our lives without Faith. We cannot receive healing and deliverance without Faith. Jesus could not perform many miracles in His hometown because of the lack of Faith (Matthew 13:53-58). Without Faith, it is impossible to operate in the realm of the spirit where true dominion and victory begin.

Throughout the four Gospels we are shown how the saving, healing, and delivering power of our Heavenly Father is activated by the faith we have in His son, Jesus.

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace. (Luke 7:50).

For context, Jesus had been invited by a Pharisee to eat in his home. While Jesus sat at the Pharisee's table, a woman who was known in her city for being promiscuous, came to where Jesus was. This woman began to cry at the feet of Jesus and as her tears fell on His feet, she used her hair to wipe His feet and anointed His feet with oil. What would cause someone to react in such a way? It was her belief that Jesus was the Messiah. Her actions were a result of her faith. Consequently, Jesus said to her "Your faith has saved you, go in peace" immediately she was saved from the consequences of her sin.

There are at least two important points we can take from this scripture:

- This woman's faith in Jesus activated the power of God to save her. Luke 7:36-49 shows us that there were others at the table, however, she was the only one who received deliverance from the consequences of her sin, because she was the only one who demonstrated her faith.
- Not only was this woman saved from the consequences of her sin, but she also received peace. **Peace follows faith.** Very often when we experience a lack of peace in our lives it is a result of our lack of faith. The more we walk by faith, the more we live in peace.

My prayer for everyone reading this is that the Holy Spirit will help you to cling to, trust in, and rely on Jesus so that you may live a life of peace.

faith is trust
peace
understanding
foundation
pinnacle

**"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."
Jude 1:20-21**

Hilary Baffoe - London, United Kingdom

To begin with, the verse addresses the reader [me] as 'Beloved'. I am the 'Beloved' [daughter] of God and I am immersed in the infinite, rich and tender love of the Lord. My first instruction - "building yourselves up on your most holy faith". This instruction evidently suggests that one must be proactive. I cannot build from a place of passivity but rather from a place of action. The definition of build is to "construct (something) by putting parts or material together and to equally make or become stronger or more intense." As a true believer, I stand on a firm and sure foundation. My faith is kindled through the teachings of the apostles and prophets, so I must build myself up on the Word of God. But most importantly, I must build myself up because I am connected to the Chief Cornerstone, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour (Ephesians 2:20).

When I personally think of building on our [my] "most holy faith", I envision a structure that is being meticulously built, with each brick/blocks gradually positioned with precision in its rightful place. However, this cannot simply be constructed and completed in one day, but it is an ongoing structure/project which will eventually be completed one day and it will be a great site to behold! Likewise, as a believer, I must build myself up each day by actively reading the Word of God, praying, listening to messages/sermons and reading Christian books just to name a few. These are all symbolic of the building blocks that will help me to progress in my spiritual walk. The next part of the scripture writes, "praying in the Holy Spirit", and this reminds me that I must consistently pray to walk in the will and power of the Spirit. He must take lead and I must follow accordingly. I must be sensitive to His leading and not quench His presence. For He helps us in our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf when we do not know what to pray or know the best things to ask for (Romans 8:26).

In verse 21, it states, "keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life". The imperative "keep" simply instructs me to remain in a place of obedience. To abide in the love of God is to remain in a state of obedience (John 14:15). Furthermore, I must "look" for the mercy of Jesus. I am encouraged to eagerly anticipate the second coming of the Lord; for I will one day be reunited with Christ and live on for eternity. And so, at this present time, I must remain steadfast and continue to persevere in my walk.

To conclude, my view of faith is to trust in the Lord, take action and be relentless!

faith is to trust in the
Lord, take action and be
relentless!

“And without **faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
Hebrews 11:6**

Roisin Williams

Honestly, when I think about faith, I think about someone covering my eyes and telling me to walk. My anxiety immediately goes through the roof because naturally I like to be in control and know where I'm going. When a person randomly comes from behind and covers my eyes my next response is to grab their hands to see if I can tell who it is by the touch of their skin or I try and move their hands. However, there are times when covering our eyes and not being in control can be a blessing, like a birthday surprise. There's a lot of anticipation but then when you open your eyes and everyone yells out 'SURPRISE' it's a beautiful feeling! All the anxiety washes away in an instant when all is revealed. So with Faith, initially, you may feel weary and uncertain but when God reveals his blessings to us we can relax, let our guard down and enjoy His presence and leading.

I've come to learn that faith challenges our human nature, it can cause us to really question the reality of what we see and experience. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (NIV). Other definitions say that Faith is 'a strong belief, confidence or trust. So in Hebrews 11:6 God desires for us to ultimately put our confidence in Him and believe that as our heavenly Father, whatever direction He calls us to, He will guide us and provide for us.

Three things I've learnt from Hebrews 11:6:

1. God can use me when I solely depend on Him and not myself.
2. Faith is important to God; He honours our faith.
3. When we act in faith and obedience to God, He will bless us.

The more we seek Him wholeheartedly and continue to put our trust in Him, He will reward us with His presence. He will also reward us with what we need and **THIS IS A PROMISE**. God is not a man that He should lie. He keeps His promises; He is the same today, and forever more! As you go about your daily life, I encourage you to lean on your Heavenly Father in all circumstances. You can build your faith through prayer, listening to sermons, and also talking to like minded people in Christ who can testify of what God has done for them! When I hear testimonies from my friends, or church members, of how God has brought them through a situation, it is so encouraging because it shows that if God can do it for them, He can do it for me too!

You may feel that you do not have enough faith, you might think what you do in church or in your walk with the Lord isn't good enough, but be encouraged brothers and sisters! Galatians 3:11 says that "No one is justified before God by the law because 'The righteous will live by Faith'". It is our Faith that keeps us close to our Father! It is our dependency and confidence in Jesus Christ that allows us to be used by God not our works.

I pray that your faith will arise as you continue to lean on Him and meditate on his word in Jesus name!

*faith is walking with
a blindfold*

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your **faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”**

James 1:2-6

Sarah Adeola

Just like a lot of scriptures in the Bible, I love this scripture!

At times, I find myself in these difficult situations, and unsure with what to do, but reading this scripture encourages my faith during those times and allows me to lean on God for His guidance. It's funny because most of us Christians, tend to believe we are 'immune' to trials and temptations, however painfully discover that it's not true at all. It's not even a matter of 'if' we go through it, but of 'when' we go through it, as it is the most inevitable reality for everyone.

Being a Christian is sweet, but it isn't always sweet and happy days, nor should we pretend that it is. In fact we have our hardships just like everyone else. Life is tough and can get real; this pandemic is real! We should however have a positive mindset on those hard times and "count it all joy". Our hardships tests of our faith in God, and is also a testing of our character, which we will truly know when we are faced with these difficult times.

I believe that through my personal trials, it has made me a lot stronger, wiser, determined and has increased my faith. In fact one of my most deepest and saddest hardships I faced, is the reason why I am a Christian today, and being a Christian is undoubtedly the greatest thing in my life.

Hardships are difficult, but they are a good thing! For it builds our character and produces perseverance. Now I am not saying purposely put yourself in a sticky situation, like some of us ladies do, but when those difficult times come, no matter what they may be, endure it.

Be positive and allow the process to pass, so that you can overcome it and be that beautiful example God wants you to be, and girl, that feeling of overcoming a difficult situation, is incomparable, and I promise you, God has always and will always have your back.

Know that your every struggle has a purpose and a plan, God wants to prepare us for a greater hope and future (Jeremiah 29:11).

Use your struggles as an opportunity for growth, and encouragement for yourself and for someone else. In those times of struggles, ask God for His wisdom and His strength to endure it and to guide your decisions; as when you ask in faith, He will generously give. Be faithful and patient with God, because it is only by His grace and peace that you will get through it, and you will! I hope this scripture will encourage you as it does for me.

Keep believing in yourself and in God!

faith is love
obedience
loyalty
strength
purpose

"So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through **faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in **love**, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high deep is the love of Christ, and to now this love surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."**
Ephesians 3:17-19

Sherrie Gold

God is Love. We need to know how to love to understand God's love. Christ needs to dwell in your heart and that's how you develop faith. Almost like your loved ones, you love them so much and you have faith in them. My point is, without your heart being invested in something you won't have faith in it.

Sometimes we expect Christ to answer our needs there and then, or we want His blessings now, now, now and if God doesn't bless us, we can easily think God doesn't love us, so we can easily become upset with God.

God knows being a Christian can be challenging and there are many seasons that we will go through which will test our love for God. God is saying regardless of how good or how bad the journey gets, continue to love as it passes all understanding. We may want one thing for our life but God said no. God gave us two jobs - to love and to have faith, and we will be filled with the fullness of God to stay strong as a Christian that we have been saved. So, He is asking us to have strength and to trust him. Once you do that you will be filled with the fullness of joy.

God said let me dwell in your hearts and by dwelling in your hearts it creates faith and faith will bring results, why, because faith pleases God. This verse has the perfect ingredients for putting love and faith together.

Sometimes we love but we don't believe, what's the point?

faith is imagination
hope
love
unquestionable
a gift

“The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” Luke 17:5

Comfort Osobu

I think faith is something we view as very black and white. It is something you have, or you don't have. You also find different groups of people using the term 'faith' as a way of encouragement, for example "you gotta have faith!"; (or the word faith is taken out and replaced with other terms, for example "you gotta hope!" or "you gotta believe!").

Before reading this verse, when something didn't turn out the way I wanted it to, it was easy to fall into the mindset of – 'well I guess I don't believe that much'. You can almost become passive in 'not believing' a whole lot, and truly thinking that your faith level is never going to increase. However, when reading this scripture what strikes me is that faith is something that has to be worked on. It's something that can be given to you, as well as something that you are able to ask for. To increase something is to "become or make greater in size, amount or degree"; so the outcome of this question is for faith to be greater in size in the life of the apostles.

The apostles asked God to increase their faith, they needed more. I sense that they must have had doubts in their minds prior to this point, I imagine that they were witnessing so many miracles, hearing so many parables from Jesus but there was still a small part of them that was thinking "how is any of this possible?" I also suspect that their lack of faith may have been hindering them from experiencing Christ in a whole new way, simply because they didn't trust in Him enough. Lack of faith can be self-sabotaging as there is no belief that there could be a turnaround in your circumstance, which allows you to be content in remaining unhappy.

I don't think it's ever wrong to have those questions, but it's what you do with those questions that matter. You don't have to be upset at the level your faith is at the moment because God can increase it! It's really encouraging to have this sort of question in the Bible as it helps me to be more open with God. It shows me that I am not the only one who has struggled with a lack of faith - those who walked with Christ for three years also did! But I love it as it gives me a solution – prayer. I have to actively ask God to increase my faith otherwise I can easily remain stagnant.

When you ask someone for something there's a part of you that believes the person will say yes - otherwise you wouldn't have asked them in the first place, so there was faith present. We all have faith but we are just asking Jesus to top it up even more! The bible says in 1 John 14-15 that if we ask anything according to his will [Jesus] he hears us, and by knowing He hears us we know that we have received what we have asked from Him. I will say that asking God to increase my faith is according to His will so I believe this will be answered!

What now? Ask God to increase your faith just as the apostles did, it can be done as simply as the three words they used... **"increase my faith"**.

You can never have too much faith, especially in God.

*faith is trust
hope
belief
assurance
security*

**“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11**

Priscilla Nott

Let's be honest here, we all have written down our plans before, our goals. We may have even had a checklist for each month declaring the plans we want specifically for that month.

Who would have thought that in 2020 we would be in a pandemic. All of our plans that we had for March, April even in May has seen to be put on hold or just thrown away. This is why this scripture means a lot especially in this season.

This season or any low season in life can possibly decrease our faith in God. We can begin to ponder upon whether God is really hearing our prayers. This is why I love this scripture. It says, 'For I know the plans I have for you'. This means that God already has planned out our whole life. Yes, can you imagine that the maker of this earth, Father God has plans specifically tailored to you. This reminds me of the scripture which mentions how all things WILL work out for those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

This scripture then continues to say, plans to prosper you. What is the definition of prosper? There are many definitions such as - succeed in material terms, flourish physically, grow strong and healthy. This means that the plans God has for you and I are to make us flourish. Do we not have moments where we have planned out something, we have followed it through and it actually did not work out. We can make plans; some may work and some may not work, but we can have faith that the plans of God for us, are only for our benefit.

Faith can be defined as having complete trust or confidence in someone or something. It says in Psalm 37:5 ESV; Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act. As I said earlier, faith is also an act of trust. **Are you willing to trust God?** He is waiting for you to just let go of that thing you are holding on, for him to act and completely give your life the turn around that you have been awaiting. Faith to me is to have complete trust and surrender to what God wants me to have.

The last part of the scriptures explains that the plans of God are not only for later but for years to come. The plans and things that God has for us are not only to give us hope, but we should become expectant and happy for what is to come. It showed me that God does not stop being good, He has more in store; there is an overflow of goodness and mercies that He has for us!

I leave you with this - God already knows what we want, He knows our hearts desires but He is waiting for us to have Faith in him, complete trust. There is nothing good that God wants to withheld from us, His goodness and mercies are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV). **Give your plans to Him!**

*faith is hope
and joy*

**“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:2**

Mirabel Adom

At first glance, the thought of “looking unto Jesus” by default can be interchanged with “looking away from the world”. Diving deeper, the bible actually indicates that “looking unto” Jesus is a command (an authoritative order) therefore, if the “word [is] God” like it says in John 1:1, then it must mean that God is behind the command, and therefore is the commander.

Now, casting our minds back, I’m sure you’ve seen war or army movies, and in these movies, there’s usually some kind of authority figure whose title might be “commander”, “corporal” or “sergeant”. This person is always someone to be obeyed and listened to.

Now if we apply the same principle here, then we need to obey and listen to God’s command. It’s important that we fix our eyes on Jesus and take our focus off the things of the world. In fact, a practical example of this is played out in Matthew 14:29-30. We see one of the disciples, Peter get out of a boat and walk on water towards Jesus, **BUT** when “he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.” At the moment Jesus instructed Peter to “come”, he set his eyes on Jesus and obeyed ... then he had a **“BUT”** moment, where doubt took over. Just a few sentences above, I highlighted the **“BUT”** in the scripture for a reason – in this instance, Peter’s **“BUT”** moment was when he was distracted by what was happening around him – quite literally, an element of this world, the wind, caught his eye and he began to lose faith in Jesus’ instruction.

Let’s move on to the idea of Jesus being an “author”. Connotations of author for me would be: someone that has the ability to write things into existence, and also write things out of existence, someone with power, creativity and imagination. When we combine this with the concept of Jesus’ name literally meaning “God is salvation”, this clearly shows us that Jesus wrote the story of our faith and our salvation – and like we all know, every story has a beginning, middle and end. This literally makes him the author AND the finisher of our faith. And day by day, we ought to walk by faith and follow in his footsteps as he leads the way.

I’m sure some of us might be familiar with these terms: “long sighted” (ability to see distant objects clearly, but closer objects are usually out of focus) and “short sighted” (distant objects appear blurred, while close objects can be seen clearly.) Just like in the second paragraph with the story of Peter taking his eyes off Jesus, in this scripture we see Jesus doing things differently. Even though Jesus has a **“BUT”** moment in Matthew 26:39, (“And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”), he left the final decision up to God. Ultimately, if Jesus had succumbed to his **“BUT”**, we may not even have the gift of salvation! Fortunately for us, he was **FAITHFUL** to God’s vision. Glory to God! Getting back to Hebrews 12:2, we see Jesus looking past the sense of shame that the world projected onto him. Instead he was able to see the joy that was waiting ahead of him. In some way, (figuratively speaking), Jesus had a case of longsighted vision. He made sure that the things of this world (shame and suffering) were out of focus so that he could see the bigger picture of our eternity; of our salvation.

What **“BUT”** moments are keeping you from walking in Faith?

faith says YES

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours.”
Mark 11:22-23

Wavenie Burland

In the first line of this passage the AMPC version translates it to mean that one should “have faith in God constantly”, constantly meaning “continuously over a period of time; always”. Always which means “at all times on all occasions” that in itself is something that takes me back. Something that I always forget ... well not always forget, but I forget. In every single situation faith is required, which is to “completely trust or have confidence in someone or something” - amazing. Which in this case is God, that's what faith means to me - **believing consistently**.

That first sentence is very deep, yet it is very simple and straight forward. It is essentially made up of 5 words - **Have. Faith. In. God. Constantly**. I've been saying this is deep and I feel like I've been on the first verse for ages because it's something we as people find so hard to do. We find it hard to trust, we find it hard to let someone else take control - simply we find it hard to let go and let God.

Now as I'm writing this, I ask myself why? Why do we as humans find it so hard to have faith? We have all these terms and conditions of how things should and shouldn't be, because we lack faith. The bible states in Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you". There are many other verses in the Bible that tell us that the Lord is with us so why don't we believe it? Maybe it's because we look to our flesh time and time again and forget that God is with all at all times. " You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Understanding that God is constantly with me - that's what faith means to me.

"Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the sea and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him" Mark 11:23 AMPC. This is what believing can do; I mean it may not move a physical mountain (most of us live in the city so do we even know what a mountain looks like ... hmmm, I digress), but a mountain in this case could and most likely would be an obstacle or something we cannot see past. However, having faith and believing in God will definitely 'move it'. Believing in the Lord that walks with us and the Lord who cares for us can help us get past these mountains. Leaving all your worries and cares with God because you know that "all things work together for God" (Roman 8:28).

"For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]" Mark 11:24.

I believe this verse is self-explanatory ... trusting, and having confidence that the Lord will fulfil your requests. Faith is believing constantly, understanding that God is always with you and trusting and being confident in the Lord.

faith is understanding
that God is always with
you



Wavenie Burland - London, United Kingdom

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have **faith.”
Matthew 21:22**

Adjoa Quagraine

Faith is a strong belief or trust in something that can not be evidently seen. Faith is strengthened when one knows who God is and how great He is. One thing that strengthens our faith as Christians is our intimacy with God. Intimacy with God produces identity, and identity produces faith.

"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith" (Matthew 21:22); this verse makes clear to us God's promise during prayer. However, most times our main limitation to answered prayers is our lack of faith. It is our ability to believe that allows us to receive what we have prayed for. At times we pray for miracles, healings, financial blessings, however, when we don't get our answer within a few days we lose faith in God. During such periods God may be trialling our ability to believe and trust in Him. And it's in these times where we must not give up and continue to press on.

This verse is about much more than getting gifts from God. It is about gaining understanding. With the words of this passage, God directs us right to the the issue of what it means and it's truly to believe. The same point of view is located in the following scriptures:

- Luke 17:6 - ("If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you");
- Matthew 17:20 - ("Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you") and ;
- Matthew 21:20-21 - ("Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive).

Although the passage in Luke speaks of a fig tree being uprooted and planted in the sea, in this scripture and in the Matthew 17 passage, Jesus tells us that we will receive answers to our prayers if only we exhibit and have the tiniest amount of faith (as small as a grain of mustard).

faith is trust
optimism
belief
hope
confidence

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

Ronke Onipede

One scripture reading that you can choose to live by and not forget is Philippians 4:13; “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”. I can remember many times that the Lord came through for me and gave me strength when I needed it, strength that I knew was not my own.

What does ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me’ mean? It literally means just that! You sis, can do anything through Christ that strengthens you. No matter what challenges you face; because of Christ it is possible. The possibilities are endless because of the God we serve. Our God that is never changing, always loving, omnipresent, omnipotent ... the list is extensive with no limit.

God’s word speaks highly of those before us who had faith.

Women of faith in the Bible that mean so much to me; (there are many more): Sarah, Deborah, Ruth, Abigail, Esther, Mary. The faith of these women in God, helped them to achieve what wouldn’t seem possible today and brought them many blessings. Blessings that we too can have access to.

What do I need to do?

As much as God does His part, it is important that we also do ours. Yes, God can help us to achieve what we deem impossible. However, we too also have a part to play. Our success in all things, according to God’s will, is possible if we have an attitude of faith and prayer. Not only that, we need to be women that have a relationship with God, women that believe in God’s words and women that have hope in the future.

The importance?

Remembering such a scripture as this one can give us a renewed sense of hope, encouragement and motivation. Remembering such a scripture as this one can be applied to any and every part of our daily lives. There are many examples of women of faith in the Bible, and we can learn so much from them and their stories.

Prayer:

Father God, I thank you for all the times you have come through for me. I thank you for helping me to achieve more than my capabilities. Lord, please continue to help me do all things through you who strengthens me. **Please continue to give me faith that is the assurance of things hoped for.**

Amen

faith is believing in
what might even seem
impossible

“My friends, what good is it to say you have **faith, when you don't do anything to show you really do have faith? Can this kind of faith save you?”**

James 2:14

Meredith Darma

What is faith to you?

According to the world, it is a noun which means to trust in someone or something. But when we look into the word of God, this is a verb, a word of action, one that requires your input.

How many times have you said "I'm believing, I have faith, I am trusting it will work" but no actions back it up? Instead, we trust that our faith alone should bring us that house, car, husband, or land us our dream career? Well, this scripture challenges whether or not we do actually have the faith to go after the things we want and have been praying for diligently.

In these perilous times where all news seems to be bad news, with an: increasing death toll, unclear strategies and no solution to the coronavirus. I am sure that we have all remained prayerful and faithful knowing that we are well, and serve a God who knows all things, and will fulfil His word in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I Know the Plans I Have for You' Declares the Lord, 'Plans to Prosper You and Not to Harm You, Plans to Give You Hope and a Future." But this does not stop us from practising social distancing and all other precautions. So why do we think that everything else we want does not require us to prove our faith?

Knowing what God has planned for me, allows me to see lockdown as an opportunity to reflect on the goals I have for my life, how this correlates with the dreams and visions God has shown me, and what I am doing to work towards these things practically. That is why I have decided that along with praying, to work through my list of goals, by breaking them down into stages where I work towards weekly targets and track my progress through an app called Habit. Now research says that it takes a minimum of 18 days for a habit to form and an average of 66 days, to become automatic. Which means to me that there is no better time than the present to get started.

So, in this season of quarantine as you believe God to do His part, what are you doing? How are you working on yourself? As you practise social distancing, start to read that book, up-skill, workout, improve your culinary skills, get in touch with your creative side, whatever it may be. I mean, "My friends, what good is to say you have faith when you don't do anything to show you really do have faith? Can this kind of faith save you? ".

So, get to work, sow your seeds, do your part, and watch God do His and who knows, you may give birth to a new idea or new business venture!!

*faith is the evidence of
things unseen*

**"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."
Mark 10:52**

Anyka Agyeman

In this passage, we read that a blind man received his sight after he was healed by Jesus. Before we can zoom into this verse, let's take a look at who this man was. We read in verse 46 that his name was Bartimaeus, (which means "son of Timaeus"). Bar in Greek means "Son of" and Timaeus means "honour", yet he was a beggar. Such a contradiction right? He was destined to live an honourable life but he was blind, alone and poor.

Isn't this the case with many of us today? We've received powerful prophecies and prayers for our lives; read encouraging scriptures such as Deuteronomy 28:13, Philippians 4:19 etc. However, if we were asked which of these are reflected in our lives, I'm sure many of us would tick "none of the above".

Bartimaeus chose not to remain under the banner of blindness and poverty. He cried out for help the moment he heard Jesus passing by. That's amazing! He couldn't see Jesus but used what he did have—his auditory sense. At times, it's so easy for us to sit down and complain about what we don't have and linger in our sorrows, but we must learn to use what we do have to fulfil our destinies.

In verse 47, Bartimaeus cries out to Jesus. But the people around tried to silence him. Nevertheless, his confidence (faith) caused him to amplify his voice and he refused to stop calling the name of the Lord until he caught the attention of Jesus. This was another obstacle that would've justified his stagnancy. But as we continue to read, the verse highlights that the same people who tried to stop him from coming to Jesus were the same ones who ushered him to the Lord. Have you been using people around you as an excuse for your lack of progress? That hater in your life is not a hindrance, but actually a stepping stone for your next level! Jesus asked him what he wanted (verse 51). This should've been obvious but faith requires that you name and claim what you want. **Stop complaining, start claiming.**

So, now let's get back to our verse. Three things stood out to me in verse 52. Firstly, Jesus pointed out that it was Bartimaeus' faith that made him whole. Stop blaming God for what you don't have. **Your trust in God is the game changer!**

Secondly, he received his sight immediately. There are times where changes in your life will come in series, but **one encounter with God can also change your life overnight.** So be encouraged! Finally, the scriptures says that he followed Jesus after he was healed. It is one thing pursuing God in your time of need, but it is another thing pursuing Him after he blesses you. Selah.

May your faith take you beyond what your natural eyes can see!

faith is pistis (Greek
word)

belief

trust

confidence

faithfulness

"Rejoice in **hope**, be patient in tribulation, be constant in **prayer**." Romans 12:12

Dr Petrina Ayertey-Gbeve – London, United Kingdom

I have often asked God about the account in Genesis 3. "What happened in the Garden of Eden, Lord?"; "Why did You not intercept and intervene moments before Eve made that dreadful mistake that would adversely impact every single generation?"; "Was it Eve's fault, that she allowed herself to engage in conversation with this all-so-cunning creature?"; "Was it her husband, Adam's fault? Could he not have, at the very least, stopped that conversation with the serpent or put it in its place by quoting Your Word back to it?". As many times as I have asked this question recently, I've almost always heard Him, reply with a gentle tug on my heart, "If my children, were at all in doubt of my instruction because they had been confused by the serpent, would I have not have shown them again what to do or what not to do by bringing My Word to their remembrance, or what to even say to the serpent, or even better come to the garden as I often did in the cool of the day to put the serpent in its place, if they had simply called upon me and asked Me?". "If you trust me with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding, if you acknowledged me in ALL of your ways, I will direct your path" (Proverbs 3:5-6). Perhaps, that was all it was; lack of prayer in that literally all-dire life or death moment, that led to the fall of the human race!

Prayer is talking to our Father. It is through prayer that we can acknowledge Him as our Father and ask Him for direction in every single step we take in this journey called Life.

Faith is demonstrated by being constant (continual, persistent, sustained) in prayer to Him, for our own sakes and the generations after us. What could be better than a life directed by the One who authored it? **God is a God of His Word**; "... for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." (Psalm 138:2); "... for I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:12). When God gave dominion (control, sovereignty) of the affairs of the earth to man in the beginning, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion..." (Genesis 1:26), He did not include himself in the legal judiciary system. He had handed it over to us, to you! Because neither Adam nor Eve invited Him to the scene, if God had intervened in the Garden, it would have been injustice i.e. God not heeding to His Word – impossible! Therefore, at any point in time of your life, if God is to intervene in your affairs, no matter how big or small, it will be a result of your prayer granting Him permission to.

Prayer is talking to God. **Prayer is having faith in the Almighty God**, your Loving Father, whose plans for you are not of evil, but are to prosper you and to bring to an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11). Demonstrate your faith by being constant in prayer, asking Him to rule, to direct, to lead, to manifest His awesome power and His Perfect Will for your life in the place where you should have dominion; your home, your family, your marriage, your children, your ministry, your career, your job, your finances, your business, your health, the entirety of your God-given destiny and existence. Thankfully rejoice in hope and be patient in every tribulation and trial you go through knowing that **He is for you**.

You are a Phenomenelle Woman. How can you afford to skimp on prayer and by doing so skimping on your Phenomenal Destiny?! **You are destined for a Glorious Life** (Romans 8:30).

Rise up in faith and be a woman who is constant in prayer, rising up early in the morning to pray, praying in the bathroom, in the kitchen, on the move, in college, at school, or at work. Wherever you are, speak to your Father, pray in the Holy Ghost every day. Intentionally and consciously develop a prayerful life, for the earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous [wo]man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working] (James 5:16).

*faith is demonstrated
through prayer*

**“Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him,
“Don't be afraid; just believe.”
Mark 5:6**

Gabbie Ngwana-Joseph

For me personally, my faith can sometimes be fleeting and I can be filled with disbelief about God's abilities (and even my own!), just like many people in the large crowd gathered around Jesus in Mark 5. In my day to day life, I am often very overwhelmed about how different my own expression and manifestations of faith are compared to other people. I see that we are frequently surrounded by people who seem to have this never-ending, all-powerful type of faith in God, and we very rarely get to see the minority of people who are afraid to give in to the Lord and just believe. Like in Mark 5 and in certain scenarios in life, if there is one disbeliever or person questioning their faith amongst a crowd of a hundred people, these doubtful feelings can spread and spread, leading us down a dark path.

In questioning and going through the journey of exploring and growing my faith, I've noticed that my fear and belief work antagonistically. Whenever my faith and belief in God is at its lowest, perhaps due to immense and overwhelming feelings of doubt, life difficulties, and not being able to see the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel", the easiest way out seems to be to turn away from God. It's in a human's nature to want to take the easiest path or find the easiest solution to a problem! However, feeling fear without having faith in God can lead to problems that will most certainly transcend to other aspects of our life. It can lead to inaction, dissuade us from pursuing our goals, and even make it harder for us to find our purpose in life.

On the other hand, whenever my faith and belief in God is at its highest, I am more able to openly and freely surrender myself to the Lord. This is because, despite any fears that I have (as feeling fear is inevitable!), be they fears of the unknown, fears during difficult times and so on, I do not allow them to hold such power and importance in my life that they poison my belief in the Lord. The strength of my faith is such that I still feel the fear, embrace it, but believe anyway. This is a supremely more challenging feat! Here, we are confronted with two choices, the easy choice and the hard choice, and we opt for the harder choice! Feeling fear whilst continuing to have faith in God, in ourselves and in others allows for the divine nature and workings of God to act. **Feeling fear but believing anyway will always be immensely rewarding.**

Despite us each having our own individual faith journeys, here are some reflections I believe that are relevant to us all:

1. Surround yourself with other believers and people who uplift you and encourage you.
2. Try not to allow those with insecurities about their faith make you question your own!
3. Feel fear. Embrace it. Accept it. Laugh in the face of it! But do not ever let it hinder you from being the best person that you can possibly be!
4. When you feel afraid, or that your faith is fading, read this scripture (Mark 5:6), along with Isaiah 43:1 and remember: "do not be afraid... for I have redeemed you. **I have called you by your name; you are mine.**"

*faith is fearlessly
believing*

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day...”
Psalm 46:1-11

Danielle Ngwana-Joseph

God is everything we need Him to be. God is the "Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelations 22:13). **He is the ultimate source of our faith.** God's word brings comfort and hope even in the most despairing and troubling of times. When you are feeling scared, confused, anxious, abandoned or overwhelmed, be reminded of the words in Psalm 46:1-11 ; "He is our refuge, our strength, our ever-present help in trouble". He is everything we need Him to be, and everything we cannot be. He is our strength when we are weak; He is our refuge when we need shelter. He is the foundation on which our faith should rest on. His word reminds us that He is always with us, but I know that sometimes it's easy to forget that God is always with us. While we're waiting to hear from God, we're not always patient. We let ourselves become overwhelmed with what we can see with our natural eyes, and what current situations are affecting us or our loved ones. We allow fear to become the dominant factor that controls us. But faith ... faith hopes and believes even in the midst of doubt and confusion. Faith is confident even in times of uncertainty.

I want to encourage you in this moment to have faith in God. You may already believe in God but do you have faith in Him? Do you have faith that He will fulfil His words? I know that sounds like a contradiction. You might be thinking, of course I have faith in God if I believe in Him. But it's so easy to say we believe God with our mouths, yet we don't have faith in our hearts and in our spirit. So I want you to confess with your mouth and in your heart that you have faith in God. Say it out loud. Have faith that He is always for you, and will always show up for you because **He - is - always - with - us.** God is like our shadow, but we need only step into the light to reveal Him, the light being Gods word. Let's not limit God or what He's able to do for us. Nothing is impossible for our God that created the heavens and the earth. Faith is patient, just like God is with us. Having faith is being patient and being hopeful on God's promises and His word, even when you're not able to physically see any signs or you're yet to see a glimmer of hope. But just as the night comes, so will the day; "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is [His] faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22-23).

I want to encourage you to "be still and know that [He is] God" (Psalm 46:10). Take time to be still. Take time to hear from God. Pray to Him and read His word so you can be comforted by His promises. **God is within you.** You will not fall and you will not fail. Know that He is God. He is the Beginning and the End. He is the "author and finisher of your faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Through Him, **ALL THINGS are possible.** Be rest assured that there is no need to fear, but to only have faith. Have faith through all the silent pain, grievances and losses in life. Lean on God. **Put your faith in God.**

Sometimes faith is all you have to hold onto. But the sweetest thing to bear in mind is that, **faith is all you need.**

*faith is all I have to
hold on to*

“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”
1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

Danielle Ngwana-Joseph

Has your faith been tested? Have you found it hard to have unwavering, phenomenal faith in God and His abilities when life has served you trial after trial? Please don't feel ashamed or guilty if your answer to that question is yes. Like you, my faith has also been tested. We've all experienced some form of pain, heartbreak, loss and sadness in life. In life, "minor" disturbances can shake our faith as can monumental changes like losing a loved one. Whether big or small, life will undoubtedly send trials and tests our way. So, how do we deal with them? How do we handle the pressures and tests of the world when we're supposed to have one of the greatest things a Christian can have - Faith.

When you are experiencing trials, I want you to be reminded that you are being planted, not buried. When you plant something (a seed, an idea, or a thought), the intention and hope is that it will grow and bear fruit of some kind. Don't perceive or mistake being planting as being buried, because trust me ...

God's not done with you yet. Think about the fact that grapes must be crushed to make wine, diamonds are formed under pressure, olives are pressed to release oil and seeds grow in darkness. Whenever your faith is feeling crushed, under pressure or in darkness, just know it's a reminder from God that you are in a powerful place of evolution, growth and transformation, as is your faith. Be patient with yourself, your situation and most importantly with God because your new level of faith is waiting to be birthed. The scripture says that fire tests and purifies gold; but how amazing is it to know that the value and preciousness of gold can't even begin to compare to the value and preciousness of your faith. When your faith is tested, it provides more opportunities for it to be purified and strengthened. When you can stand firm and root your faith in God and not in the things of this world, know that with Him, there is not a single thing you cannot overcome.

So how can we have faith? What do we need to do? In all honesty, to have faith, all you need to do is simply believe. That's it, just one word - **believe**. But I know it's not as easy as it seems. Faith is like a seed, and like a seed, it needs to be nurtured, watered and cared for. Help yourself and your faith grow by staying connected to God. Develop your relationship with God and if you've yet to start, create a relationship with Him. You put your faith in something or someone you trust, and you can't trust someone you don't talk to, so talk to God. Pray to God. Build your confidence in Him. Find comfort by reading His words in the Bible. Sometimes it's hard to have faith when at times, the world makes you doubt yourself or your belief in God; or when you experience testing situations. But I want you to know how precious and comforting it is to have faith. In spite of the trials and the doubts we sometimes have, I find faith is beautiful and valuable. Faith is believing in what the eyes can't see, the mouth can't taste and the hands can't touch. Faith lives in your spirit and in your heart. Faith, however, won't always be a feeling. It will need to be a firm decision you have to stand on, just like the first moment you decided to believe in God. Take yourself back to the very first moment you believed in your heart that God is real. Remember that your trials won't last forever; it's just for a little while as the scripture says.

The scripture provides a sweet reminder to be truly glad, so I have decided that I will. I have decided that in all things, I will be truly glad because **wonderful joy lies ahead**. In the end, everything will be well with you and for you because "all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them" (Romans 8:28). In times of sorrow, I pray you **hold onto hope**. In times of doubt, I pray you **hold onto your faith**. The trials of this world will inevitably come, but you shall overcome them. Weapons will form, but they shall never prosper against you (Isaiah 54:17).


So my dear friend, I want to encourage you to be truly glad; have faith throughout the trials of life because the Lord will "bestow on [you] a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." (Isaiah 61:3) Selah.

Out of the ashes, beauty shall rise; so will you and so will your faith.

a seed;
precious and valuable ;
a decision to cherish
forever

My quiet time reflection

Use this page to write your own quiet time on faith. Focus on a scripture or two and jot down your thoughts and reflections on what Gods word is saying to you about Faith.
Refer to this when you need to encourage yourself.



Name:

Date:

My quiet time reflection

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Name:

Date:

Phenomenelle Life

Danielle Ngwana-Joseph | Phenomenelle Life

Danielle Ngwana-Joseph is a writer, editor and blogger. Danielle has a masters degree in Philosophy and Public Policy; she wants to influence the world around her and contribute to society through writing, blogging, research, and through work in the public policy sector.

In January 2020, Danielle created **Phenomenelle Life**. Danielle writes about faith, lifestyle and personal development to encourage phenomenal living.

The Phenomenelle Philosophy

Fuel Your Faith
Love your lifestyle
Pursue your personal development

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