

Your Faith

"...Daughter, your faith has made you well" Mark 5:34

Faith is in general the persuasion of the mind that a certain statement is true (Phil. 1:27; 2 Thess. 2:13). Its primary idea is trust. A thing is true, and therefore worthy of trust. It admits of many degrees up to full assurance of faith, in accordance with the evidence on which it rests. Faith is the result of teaching (Rom. 10:14-17). Knowledge is an essential element in all faith, and is sometimes spoken of as an equivalent to faith (John 10:38; 1 John 2:3). Yet the two are distinguished in this respect, that faith includes in it assent, which is an act of the will in addition to the act of the understanding.

Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary

[Cite This Source](#)

W *hat is faith?* Well, I know that the dictionary doesn't say this, but I will venture to say that faith is a verb. It is not static. It runs to and hears and knows God; declares & acts on His purposes and links our humanity with His endless possibilities.

Faith is active trust. It is an act of the will.

Jesus loves faith! In fact, He rejoiced over the faith that those who followed Him displayed. (see Luke 10:17-24) God loves faith and moves to action when He sees & hears it in action.



So much hinges on our faith. Sometimes I wonder if we've made it sound so mystical that it has lost its substance (Hebrews 11:1). Scripture tells us that faith can be seen, that you can hear it and be moved by it. Jesus often remarks that He was moved to act on someone's behalf because of "their faith". My faith is not reliant on someone else's. It may be encouraged & spurred on by someone else, but it will always be accountable to me.

Jesus was always mentoring, teaching and prodding His followers to learn. They would ask Him to feed the crowd and He would ask them what they had to contribute (Mark 6:37). He said that faith was like a mustard seed in Mark 4:30-32, that when it was planted it would grow into something others could benefit from. So, was faith the seed or was faith in the knowing of what the seed could become? The seed was just a seed but faith saw the potential of that tiny seed and planted it in the ground!

Faith is active trust. It is not passive, but it does not need attention. It is sure of what it hopes for and feeds on the very Word and presence of God, growing into maturity.

Let's continue our journey in Mark and see what Jesus shows us about our faith.

Faith knows that God is God. Mark 5:27

- This woman had heard about Jesus and knew who He was...

Faith worships God. Mark 5:6

This is stunning!

- he was full (legion) of demons, but saw God coming & had faith in Him
- Jesus is moved by faith.

Faith will beg. Mark 5:22, 23; Mark 7:26; Mark 7:32

(APPEAL, IMPLORE, PLEAD, URGE)

- there are 8 times in Mark that we see someone imploring Jesus for help... including the legion of demons

Take Note... It was the man bowing to Jesus, not the demons! It is important to understand that demons know who God is, but they will not submit to Him.

(James 2:19)

Faith listens well. Mark 7:14-16

- Do you listen as well as you hear?
- It comes by 'hearing' and hearing by the 'Word of God'. (Romans 10:16-21)

Faith declares what it believes. Mark 5:23, 28

- Believe and therefore speak (2 Corinthians 4:13)
- Faith speaks with confidence & authority
- Faith has great expectation
- Our words are powerful, revealing the spirit & intent of our heart. They have the potential to release life or death.
 - John 6:62-64, Proverbs 18:21

This may sound surprising, but the astonishment of what we witness may actually drive us to fear & unbelief.

Faith believes the unbelievable. Mark 5:36

The word 'afraid' here is the word 'Phobeo' and means:

- to put to flight by terrifying (to scare away)
- to be struck with fear, to be seized with alarm
- of those startled by strange sights or occurrences
- of those struck with amazement



Now look at Mark 6:2; 6:51-52; 7:37; 8:14-21. Write down what you see here in relation to astonishment and what effect it may have on us. Have you ever been so amazed at what you see that you did not believe it? What do you see in these examples that show you the heart of God? How many times will He continue to teach us and show us grace?

 **WRITE YOUR THOUGHTS HERE:**

Faith moves. Mark 6:56

Faith takes action. Faith touches Jesus. (TO FASTEN
ONE'S SELF TO, ADHERE TO, CLING TO)

As many as touched Him were made well.

- To touch someone we must reach for them; this is an act of faith.
- What does it mean to 'touch' God?
- We see that it brings salvation (the word 'well' in the above verse is 'Sozo' meaning to be made whole, to be saved, to be healed.)

**Faith declared. Faith came. Faith begged.
Faith took Jesus home even though their little girl was dead.
Faith carried the sick to Him. Faith moves.
(Mark 5:6; 5:27, 28; 5:40; 6:55; 7:25; 7:32)**

Faith moves the heart of God. Mark 5:34 ; Mark 5:19; Mark 6:34

- over & over we see Jesus responding to the cry of someone's heart and their faith in His ability to answer their need. (Mark 1:41; Mark 2:5)
- we come full circle, back to where this lesson started from: Your faith has made you well.
- our faith in God moves & excites Him into action on our behalf!
- God's love & compassion is moved deeply by our **active trust** in Him.

**And the prayer of faith will save the sick & the Lord will raise him up.
And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
James 5:15**

Faith puts doubt out.

What stands in the way of God moving on our behalf?

- fear, astonishment (Mark 5:36)
- doubt & ridicule (Mark 5:40)
- offense (Mark 6:3)
- hard heart (Mark 6:52)
- reason (Mark 8:16)

**Jesus warned, "Be very careful.
Keep a sharp eye out for the contaminating
yeast of Pharisees and the followers of Herod." Mark 8:15**

Obstinate unbelief will have something to say, though ever so unreasonable. Christ refused to answer their demand. If they will not be convinced, they shall not. Alas! what cause we have to lament for those around us, who destroy themselves and others by their perverse and obstinate unbelief, and enmity to the gospel! When we forget the works of God, and distrust him, we should chide ourselves severely, as Christ here reproves his disciples. How is it that we so often mistake his meaning, disregard his warnings, and distrust his providence?) Henry, Matthew. "Concise Commentary on Mark 8". "Matthew Henry Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible".

*Faith without works is dead.
James 2:26*

Faith is stress free! Hebrews 3:19; Hebrews 4:3

With absolute trust comes absolute peace. Hear what Jesus said to the woman who was healed of the bleeding: "...your faith has made you well. Go in peace..."

If God has told you something, declare it, act on it and see it through.

Faith sees things through! Mark 8:25

Then He put His hands on his eyes again...

- This may not sound like much, but sometimes we need to persist to follow through with what God wants to accomplish. If God has told you something, declare it, act on it and see it through.
- Remember the story of Naaman? He was told to wash in the Jordan 7 times and at first he was ticked off! Read it in 2 Kings 5.

Faith Gets It! Mark 8:29

- Faith is based on revelation

Finally, the disciples were starting to understand what Jesus had been trying to show them. Peter is the 1st to declare his faith in Mark 8:29.

Let's look at this from Matthew 16:15-18.

Faith brings us closer to God. Mark 8:31

...From that time on He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things...

- When our spirit 'gets it', we are released into our destiny with Christ. Our relationship with Him gets sweeter and deeper.

Let's Get Practical

1. Stir up the faith in you. (2 Timothy 1:5-7)

Use it.

- Get close to God
- Listen well
- Believe what He tells you
- Declare what you believe
- Take action

2. Put doubt out.

- hang out with faith – both believers *and* seekers
- exemplify faith
 - testify of what God is doing in your life
 - boast in the power of the cross of Jesus
- shake off doubt and anything that would hinder you
 - Mark 6:11; Hebrews 12:1; 2 Corinthians 10:5

**DO NOT MERELY LISTEN
TO THE WORD, AND SO
DECEIVE YOURSELVES.**

DO WHAT IT SAYS.

JAMES 1:22

Look for opportunities to minister healing to at least four people who are sick during this week, and apply what you learned in this session to their situations. Record the results of their faith in your notebook and share these results with us next week.