

From Publications on  
Streamglobe Devotional

THE  
NATURE  
OF

F A I T H

SD ABRAHAM

**A Seven Day Study Resource To Help Establish  
And Grow You In The Faith Of Our Lord Jesus  
Christ**

# DAY 1

James 1:3-4 (NKJV)

...Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

For seven years, Funke had prayed and trusted God to give her the fruit of the womb. But she was still expecting a miracle to happen. By this time, some of her 'friends' and family members were suggesting that she was not taking matters seriously enough. They told her about one 'baba' who solved several women's problem. But Funke insisted that she was going to wait for the Lord and not turn to another god. (This 'Baba' was a sorcerer).

Many times, it occurred to Funke that she was going to die childless, but she kept on encouraging herself in the Lord. The Lord kept showing her signs and tokens to remind her that He was with her.

After being married for thirteen years, she and her husband welcomed their first child into this world. At the point she conceived, she was no more expecting to conceive because she had already reached menopause and had concluded that 'even if He slay me, I will still trust Him'. This was the threshold of faith that produced the miracle she had been praying for.

She didn't quickly notice that all the time of waiting on the Lord and remaining steadfast had worked for her an eternal weight of glory. Even though she didn't have biological children, she had many

children in the Lord and had disciplined tens of girls, many of whom she brought out of the streets.

Something about faith that we cannot afford to forget is that faith and patience usually work together. **One of the biggest signs of true faith in the heart of a believer is the willingness to be patient.** It is during the period of our patience that our faith is being purified and made strong.

Go into today remembering that true faith is willing to wait on God and not turn to compromises.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you walk steadfastly in faith all the days of your life.

## DAY 2

Hebrews 10:38 (KJV)

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Fayemi was drowning spiritually and he knew it. He could no longer pray like before, and when he did, he wasn't sure his prayers had power.

It wasn't always like this. There was a time in his life that he had great faith, but his faith eroded with time because he was walking in disobedience.

Abraham was a man of great faith. This faith made him obey the Lord every step of the way. That is what faith does.

Faith and obedience are two sides of the same coin. No one can say he has faith in God (or he has the faith of God) without being obedient to God. Those who truly have faith in the Lord Jesus would obey His commandments (see Luke 6:46-49). Those who constantly walk in disobedience do this to the detriment of their faith. A good example of disobedience is being unequally yoked together with unbelievers (see 2 Cor 6:14).

One of the ways you will know if your faith is dying is through your prayer life. It takes faith to pray in the spirit, but when this becomes increasingly difficult, it is an indication that you need [spiritual] healing.

Go into today remembering that you cannot live by faith and live in disobedience to the word of the Lord.

Ask the Lord to deliver you from every disobedience and empower you to always live in obedience to His will.

# DAY 3

James 1:3-4 (NKJV)

...Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

During the 13 years Funke waited to have a child, her faith was tried and greatly strengthened. Because of this, she had become a person of great esteem in heaven. She had a robust relationship with the Lord and could stand in the gap for people as a territorial priest before God. After her trial was over, she always wondered if she would have been so close to the Lord if she didn't face that trial.

Father Abraham is known today as the father of faith because of his patience in waiting on God for Isaac, and his willingness to sacrifice Isaac because he trusted God that much. If Abraham did not patiently trust God for so long to receive Isaac, he most likely would not be known today as the father of faith. His seeming suffering was working for him an eternal weight of glory.

In James 1:2-4, God says we should count it all joy when we face trials and temptations because they help to strengthen our faith and make us perfect (if we faint not). Do not let the devil deceive you to think that because of your trials you are under a curse and you need to start running from pillar to post. As long as you know you are

with God and living under His authority in obedience, you have nothing to fear. After your night of weeping, the daybreak of laughter and glory will come (Psalm 30:5).

Go into today thanking God and remembering that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him (Rom 8:28-NIV).

# DAY 4

Hebrews 10:38 (KJV)

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Denying Jesus even in the face of death was something that the apostles and early Christians would not do because they understood the meaning of faith. As Jews, the apostles understood that faith in Jesus meant faithfulness to Him no matter what. Faith was not a once and for all thing, it was an enduring reality that controlled every area of their lives.

In the Hebrew language, the word translated to mean faith can also be translated to mean faithfulness. In that language, faithfulness and faith is the same word. This has a lot to say about the nature of the Christian faith.

When Apostle Paul talks about justification by faith, we must realize that there is always an undertone of faithfulness because as a Jew, Paul could not understand how one would have faith and not be loyal, obedient and faithful to the one in whom he has faith.

Anyone who truly has faith in God will be faithful to God. He will have no other gods beside Him. He will obey Him and ever seek to more perfectly walk in His will.

When people try to divorce faith in God from commitment and faithfulness to God, they are not talking about the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, they are talking about another kind of faith, and that faith cannot save anyone.

Go into today remembering that faith in the Lord will make you faithful to Him and not ashamed of Him in this crooked world.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to fill your heart with His faith.

# DAY 5

Romans 8:13 (NLT)

For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

When Osas got to the university, he came in contact with some preachers that made him believe that his conduct didn't matter as long as he had once believed in Jesus. He started listening to these teachers and now despised his former preachers as 'teachers of the law'. He continued to follow these teachers and was now emboldened to continue in certain sins that he had struggled with in the past.

A terrible quarrel broke out between him and his choir director because his Choir director stole his girlfriend. He was grieved by the fellowship because they took sides with the choir director against him. Because of this grief in his heart, he stopped going to church and started questioning Christianity. After some time, he became an atheist because there was no more faith in his heart unto salvation.

If a believer continues to listen to such preachers as the ones Osas met on campus, they will give him doctrines to appease his mind while he is violating his conscience with sin. Unknown to him, his faith is being gradually eroded because sin is a hostile force against faith (see Rom 14:23). Brazenly continuing in any sin (and constantly violating the conscience) can lead to a shipwreck of faith (see 1 Tim 1:19). This is when there is no more faith left in the heart unto salvation.

This was what Judas Iscariot was toiling with when he was following Jesus but was unrepentantly continuing in his sin of stealing (John 12:6).

This was the trap the devil planned for Peter because denying Jesus not once, but thrice, would have been enough blows to his conscience to cause his faith to fail. But the Lord interceded for him (see Luke 22:31).

Go into today remembering that rebelliously walking in any known sin is the way people have a shipwreck of their faith.

# DAY 6

Jude 3-4 [NLT]

...But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. 4 I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives...

When Jim accepted Christ, he was very glad to find a church that didn't make him uncomfortable with the lifestyle [of sin] that he enjoyed. They encouraged him to love the Lord, but did not discourage him from loving the world (see 1 John 2:15). He continued comfortable in his sinful lifestyle while he was now seriously committed to that church. What he did not know was that he was not yet a Christian at all.

Any teaching that undermines righteousness is not teaching the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is teaching another faith. True Faith always produces righteousness-the works of faith, because faith without works is dead (see James 2:14). Righteousness produced by faith is not a product of human struggle; it is a product of grace.

The purpose of the old covenant was to produce righteousness. The old covenant failed in doing this because the flesh was weak (see Rom 8:3). The purpose of the new covenant is still to produce righteousness in us. It has succeeded because our born again spirits energizes our flesh to walk righteously. We are being renewed from within.

The reason why God's covenant with fallen man seeks to produce righteousness is because God's throne is established in righteousness and justice (see Psa 89:14). If we must partake in this throne, we must allow God's nature of righteousness to dominate us again.

Go into today asking the Lord to empower you to always please Him in all things, and be fruitful in every good work.

# DAY 7

Mark 4:31 (NKJV)

[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth

Luke 17:21

...the kingdom of God is within you.

If you plant a mustard seed, everything about the tree, including the fruits it will bear and the huge size it will attain is encoded into that seed. As the seed begins to grow day by day, its real nature is revealed in the plant. Everything the tree will ever become has been encoded in that seed.

When you received Christ as Lord and Savior, you received the righteousness of God in your Spirit. This seed of God in your Spirit is incorruptible (see 1 Peter 1:23). God's plan is that as you live out your life here on earth by faith, His righteousness within you is revealed. "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; it is written, 'the just shall live by faith'" (Rom 1:17).

As you live by faith, the righteousness of God in your spirit is revealed, just like the nature of the mustard seed is revealed as it is allowed to grow.

Any believer who does not live by faith will not let the righteousness of God deposited in his spirit to be revealed. He will be unfruitful. Remember that God's expectation is fruitfulness (John 15:16, Luke 8:4-8).

The righteousness that counts before God is the righteousness of God, not the righteousness of man. The righteousness of man is a result of man's work in obeying laws, but the righteousness of God is the fruit produced when believers live by faith (walk in the Spirit).

Go into today thanking God for the gift of His righteousness in your Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you live by faith and be fruitful.

**These write-ups were extracted from Streamglobe Devotional Daily publications.**

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