

TALKING POINTS

STRETCH - FAITH

LEANING IN

We as believers want to have the capacity to really experience God to the fullest - so we stretch. Faith is central to our relationship with God - and need to know how we can "stretch" to grow in our faith.

Faith is - even though you may not be able to see God, He sees you in every circumstance you're in. Sometimes it doesn't feel that way or seem that way, sometimes it even appears as God is not active in your life, but the reality is He is there. Faith is not - God will always deliver me from my circumstances. Faith means whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief in God

Faith is active - it isn't merely an intellectual stance, but rather a belief which leads us to action. When we have faith, we have works which follow. What we do is far more valuable than what we say. We can say anything, but how do we live our lives? The confidence we truly have in God is evidenced by the actions we take as Christians in our lives.

Read Hebrews 11:1, James 2:26, Luke 17:5

If someone didn't know what you believed, what would your life say about your faith?

LIVING IT OUT

The bottom line is, faith doesn't require outrageous acts, it requires simple obedience. If you want to increase your faith simply obey in whatever God has put in front of you. Here then are four biblical principals we can apply immediately in our lives to increase our faith:

The Word Of God - is essential to our faith lives. We have to know, practice acting on and even testing the Word of God if we want to see faith grow in our lives.

Read Romans 10:17, James 1:22-25

Have you ever "tested" God's word - doing what it said, even though your instincts said it made no earthly sense?

Serving The Lord - serving allows us to see God's power first hand, to trust Him and it redirects our focus to Jesus.

Read Hebrews 11:1-12

Can you share a time when serving God caused you to see God's power first hand?

Surrounding Ourselves With The Faithful - we should put people around us who are farther along and extremely faithful in their walks with God. This way they can challenge us by calling us to more.

Read Proverbs 27:17, Acts 8:27-31

Can you share a time in your life when a spiritually mature person called you to a deeper walk with Jesus?

Speak Our Faith - what we say out loud ultimately directs our life, so our confession of faith is made to be spoken out loud. We should confess our faith as opposed to our doubts as it determines our path. We can confess we are loved and accepted by God, we are children of God, citizens and heirs to His Kingdom.

Read Hebrews 10:23, James 3:3-5

What confessions of faith can we make beyond the ones listed above?