

What Can Happen To My Faith?

Introduction. In Luke 22:32, Jesus prayed to God that Peter's faith not fail. We know from Hebrews 11:1 that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Furthermore, we learn from Hebrews 11:6 that "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Therefore, the scriptures teach that faith is an utmost necessity to please Him. However, our faith, while subjective, is not static. We are going to look in this lesson at the only two possible outcomes of faith.

I. ***My Faith Can Be Increased***

- A. You will look all over the scriptures and will not find where God will miraculously increase faith.
- B. Any increase in faith must come from within.
 - 1. Romans 10:17 tells us to increase our faith by hearing and studying the word of God.
 - 2. In Luke 17:5, after the apostles asked for an increase in their faith, the Lord did not promise them an automatic boost of faith.
 - 3. In 2 Corinthians 10:15 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3, Paul hoped that their faith would grow and increase as it should.
- C. How can faith be increased?
 - 1. It can be perfected with works (Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-24).
 - 2. It can be added to by fellowship with other Christians and by developing other godly virtues (1 Thessalonians 3:10; 2 Peter 1:5-7).

II. ***My Faith Can Be Overthrown***

- A. Paul sadly tells of some who overthrew their own faith (2 Timothy 2:17-18). Furthermore, Paul was fearful of those whose faith was in jeopardy (1 Thessalonians 3:5-8).
- B. Another way Paul described the loss of faith is by it being made shipwreck (1 Timothy 1:19-20). How can faith be overthrown?
 - 1. Faith can be overthrown by false teaching (1 Corinthians 15:14-17). This is why we have so many warnings against false teaching in the New Testament.
 - 2. Faith can be overthrown by a lack of study (2 Timothy 2:15). This very well could be one of the biggest problems the church in America faces today.
 - 3. Faith can be overthrown by problems and divisions within the church (1 Corinthians 1:10-15; Galatians 5:15-21).
 - 4. Any of these will effectively kill our faith and pull us away from God.
- C. We must all be careful and cautious concerning our faith lest we be

castaways (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Conclusion. What is happening to our faith? Are you increasing your faith by adding to it and perfecting it with works? Or is it in the process of being overthrown by a lack of study or false teaching? To make it to heaven, we must keep our faith, based upon the power of God and not the wisdom of men, until death (1 Corinthians 2:5; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:4-5).