

Have Faith

by Susan Nikaido *Discipleship Journal* Issue #126 November/December 2001

The Scriptures are saturated with passages describing the importance of faith and trust in our relationship with God. Here's an overview of the subject of faith.

Even though he was old and childless, Abraham believed God's word that his offspring would outnumber the stars. God declared him righteous because of his faith (Gen. 15:1–6).

God declared that a generation of Israelites would die in the desert, never enjoying the promised land, because of their lack of faith (Numbers 14).

God allowed the next generation of Israelites to defeat their enemies and occupy the promised land because of their faith (1 Chron. 5:18–22).

Hezekiah had no equal among the kings of Judah. God blessed him and made him successful in whatever he undertook because of his obedience and faith (2 K. 18:5–7).

Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah trusted God to defeat the vast armies of Moab and Ammon. He destroyed their enemies before they even reached the battlefield because of His people's faith (2 Chron. 20:1–26).

David wrote, "In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed" (Ps. 22:4–5).

Solomon wrote, "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe" (Prov. 29:25).

Isaiah wrote, "This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength'" (Is. 30:15).

Jeremiah wrote, "This is what the Lord says: 'Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

'But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit'" (Jer. 17:5–8).

Jeremiah's life was spared because of his faith (Jer. 39:18).

God spared Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from certain death in the fiery furnace because of their faith (Dan. 3:28).

Daniel escaped from the mouths of lions because of his faith (Dan. 6:23).

When Jesus' disciples were being unusually thick-headed, He called them "you of little faith" (Mt. 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8, 17:20; Lk. 12:28).

Jesus commended the centurion for his great faith (Mt. 8:10).

Declaring, "Your faith has healed you," Jesus healed

- a paralytic (Mt. 9:1–2)
- a woman who had been sick for 12 years (Mt. 9:20–22)
- two blind men (Mt. 9:27–29)
- Bartimaeus, a blind man (Lk. 18:35–43)

Jesus did not do many miracles in His hometown "because of their lack of faith" (Mt. 13:58).

Jesus said if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, "nothing will be impossible for you" (Mt. 17:20).

After His resurrection, Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith (Mk. 16:14).

Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (Jn. 20:29).

We are saved by faith (Eph. 2:8).

We are sanctified by faith (Acts 26:18).

We are justified by faith (Ro. 3:28).

We are to live by faith (2 Cor. 5:7, Gal. 2:20).

We receive the Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:14).

We approach God "with freedom and confidence" through faith (Eph. 3:12, Heb. 10:22).

We extinguish "all the flaming arrows of the evil one" with the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16).

We are commanded to pursue faith (2 Tim. 2:22).

We overcome the world through faith (1 Jn. 5:5).

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).