

6. Practical ways we can push ourselves to strengthen our faith

Spend time in the Word

Don't just read the words; understand that these were real people, in real situations, doing real things, a long time ago. They were just in a far away land and culture.

Look for what God is doing around you

To apply the principles in what you have been reading in Scripture, there will be things you can see around you. There are people going through things that you can see that will help grow your faith as well. Look for things that only God can do.

Don't be afraid of a little trial or tribulation

God uses the hardships in your life to grow your faith. During those times we tend to want to spend more time with God because we need him. It is when we don't think we need him that we fall away and do not rely or fellowship with God like we should.

Do something in devotion to God that you might not otherwise do on a regular basis

We have been challenging you all to memorize the verse of the month. I have challenged the students to read their Bible at least 3 times a week and pray every day. How many people meditate on the Words in the Bible or verses or the Bible until they become integrated into your life. Many things you could do that you maybe have not tried.

“Pushing Myself To Trust God”

Series: No Excuses

5 November 2017

Matthew 14:28-33

What does it mean to have Faith?

¹¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:1-3 ESV

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

1. Is that you . . . Lord? (where is your faith)

Matthew 14:28

²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”

*“Matthew’s portrait of Peter makes it quite clear
that he was in touch with his inner impulsive child.
So why does he pause here to ask for a command first
before climbing out of the boat?”*

*John Ortberg
If You Want to Walk on Water You Have to Get Out of the Boat*

2. You want me to do. . . What?
(how do you exercise your faith)

Matthew 14:29

²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

How much faith do you think it took Peter to get out of the boat?

What are some things that cause you to be in awe of God?

What are some things that make you want to experience God?

Jesus commands **COME** and Peter went!

Don't Think, Just obey!

3. Save me . . . Lord
(what challenges your faith)

Matthew 14:30

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

What kinds of things make you doubt God?

4. But Lord it was the. . . _____
(who sustains your faith)

Matthew 14:31

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Matthew 6:30

²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. Matthew 8:26

⁸ But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? Matthew 16:8

Why is it so difficult to let God be God? He is the one who sustains you!

If we lived like we trusted God to provide for us and sustain us in every way what would our lives look like?

5. You are . . . Lord
(where is your faith again)

Matthew 14:32-33

³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

God brought them back to the beginning of where Peter started to confirm who God was. Only now their faith had been questioned and challenged and renewed to a better understanding of who He is! isn't this the pattern we see in our own lives.