

1. Overcoming Faith (40 Day Campaign Series)

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Subtitle: What is faith, and what is it for?

Today is Day 1 of our “Overcoming Faith” Campaign. We are embarking on a 40 Day spiritual journey of strengthening & building our faith, to see God’s miraculous power released in our lives in a fresh way.

- Fresh Faith to lay hold of all of God’s promises
- Fresh Faith to overcome life’s challenges
- Fresh Faith to walk in:
 - God’s Peace and Joy
 - God’s Provision
 - God’s Protection
 - God’s Healing and Deliverance
- Fresh Faith for God’s will to manifest in our lives, families, city & nation

Some fundamentals of faith:

1. Faith is always FOR something

1 Peter 1:5 NKJV *(You) are kept by the power of God through **faith for salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Notice the words: ... **faith for salvation**...

Faith is always for something – faith has been designed to produce something.

1 Peter 1:9 NIV *For you are **receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

Faith is always supposed to have an end result (NASB - outcome).

There is:

- Faith for salvation (1 Peter 1:5,)
- Faith for divine healing (Acts 14:9)
- Faith for divine provision (Philippians 4:19)
- Faith for divine protection (Psalm 91:10)
- Faith to command storms to be still (Luke 8:24-25)
- Faith for souls
- Etc.

God has faith for us to meet every need that we might have in this life. It's all faith, but it has been given, and is developed for a specific end goal in mind.

In the Bible, we see two distinct types or aspects of faith:

- A. Our personal (or corporate) faith (Romans 12:3)
- B. The gift of faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)

For the purpose of our study during the 40 Day Campaign of "Overcoming Faith", we are mainly discussing Type A. faith – our personal faith, and how to develop it to function at high capacity.

2. Who has faith?

Romans 12:3 KJV *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.***

- Paul said that everyone that was among the Roman believers had been given the measure of faith
- Every believer starts out with the same measure of faith
- There is **no superior measure** and **no inferior measure of faith**
- God has given all of us the right measure of genuine Bible faith when we were born again

2 Thessalonians 3:2 NIV84 *And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for **not everyone has faith.***

- Not everyone have faith
- Every human being has a natural human faith, but only born again believers have real bible faith
- Of course, if lost people hear the gospel preached, they receive faith for salvation
- To reiterate, only born again believers receive the measure of faith

3. It is our responsibility to develop and grow our measure of faith

2 Thessalonians 1:3 NCV *We must always thank God for you, brothers and sisters. This is only right, because **your faith is growing more and more**, and the **love** that every one of you has for each other is **increasing.***

Just like a physical muscle is able to be developed to grow to lift bigger weights, so our faith is able to grow to handle bigger projects, assignments and greater challenges.

4. What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Faith is the substance (essence) of things we hope for (God's promises produce hopes & dreams in our lives)
- Faith is the evidence (conviction) of things not (yet) seen (Faith is the conviction that God's promises not (yet) seen are true)
- Faith is designed to give substance to your hopes and dreams
- Faith brings into reality the unrealities of our hopes and dreams
- Faith is the title deed of the promises of God
- Faith is the biblical lifestyle of believers

Hebrews 12:1–2 NLT Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to **the life of faith**, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **2** We do this by keeping our eyes on **Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith**. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Hebrews 10:38 (NLT) And **my righteous ones will live by faith**. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away.

- Our faith is our spiritual muscle
- Our faith lays hold of the power of God for our lives

1 Peter 1:5 AMP (You) are being **guarded (garrisoned) by God's power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time**.

- Our faith is spiritual currency

Isaiah 55:1 (NIV84) *Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, **come, buy and eat!** Come, buy wine and milk **without money and without cost.***

- How do you “buy” things from God without money?
 - We use faith to “buy” and receive the free things from God
- Faith is the means by which we please God

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV *But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

- Faith is an unwavering trust in God and in His Word

Proverbs 3:5–6 NLT *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **6** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

5. How do I get faith?

Luke 17:5–6 Msg *The apostles came up and said to the Master, “**Give us more faith.**” **6** But the Master said, “You don’t need more faith. There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, ‘Go jump in the lake,’ and it would do it.*

- We don’t get more faith by praying to get more faith
- Jesus encouraged the apostles to learn how to use the faith they had

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) *So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God.***

As we hear God’s Word again and again, over and over, our faith is charged up like a battery. Advice: Don’t let your battery run dry – keep it charged up.

- Feed your faith by reading and hearing God’s Word (Daily Readings)
- Meditate in God’s Word and confess it daily (Daily Confessions)
- Join a Small group and encourage someone else in their faith journey