

# Growing in Faith 2

I really believe that as a church God is wanting us to move forward in our faith and trust in Him in the coming season. God wants us to mobilise and activate our faith. We can talk a lot about faith but if there's no activation of that faith it remains useless. **James 2:26** *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.* We as a church are in a season of change and I believe God is stirring up this gift of faith because without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is the catalyst that activates the supernatural.

I think we have been blessed to be in a church that preaches faith and practices faith and now I believe the time's coming for us as the church (the gathered ones) to start activating our faith to see miracles break forth.

Often change of atmosphere, place or location and getting out of the familiar moves us to a place of trying new things. Sometimes you have to get rid of the usual and the familiar to trust God when in that place of vulnerability. Church it is time to get out of the boat.

Last week I encouraged you on the importance of growing in faith not just staying at the point of decision made for Jesus. I covered 5 points with you, which in a nutshell was to grow and be mature in the things of the Spirit so that when our faith is tested we will continue to stand.

I am continuing on the same theme of growing in faith. (please check our website for last weeks notes)

Here are a few things you need to know.

**Every believer has been given a measure of faith.** This is the God kind of faith (**Eph 2:8-9** *For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.*) Faith is the gift given by God.

**Rom 12:3** *And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.* The NKJV puts it like this: as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

So you can see that faith comes from God and faith has been given to every believer - this measure of faith has been given. It isn't something God is going to do but He's already done it. We already have it. We don't have to pray for it and we can never pay for it - for that measure of faith to believe.

So we have established that every person who believes in Jesus has faith but the question is what has become of that faith. Where has that faith you have in Jesus taken you? Has it grown or have we buried it like the man who buried his one talent in fear and doubt and unbelief? (Matt 25:18) Many times as Christians we have taken this measure of faith and boxed it or covered it and hidden it away and have not used it to birth those miracles. There's no rainy day faith. Faith is now!

Church we need to know that this God given faith needs to be activated to see the miracles.

**The second thing about this faith is that it can grow and increase.** This measure of faith can increase but it can only do so when we decide to do something about it. We are the one's that increase our faith not God. In **Luke 17:5-6** when the disciples said Lord increase our faith Jesus said if you had faith like a grain of mustard seed you can say to this mulberry tree be uprooted and be planted in the sea - it will obey you.

So how do you increase / grow your faith? by feeding on the Word of God ( reading your bible) and putting that word into practise.

Faith is like a muscle - the more you work it the more it grows. You have to feed your faith like feeding your body.

You cannot sustain yourself in faith and grow if you are feeding once a week or just as and when you feel like it. *Matt 4:4 Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone"* - What bread or food is to the body, the Word of God is to the spirit. We feed our spirit man by the Word of God that proceeds out of his mouth, the inspired Holy Word of God.

If you just keep feeding on the word and not exercising your faith you become flabby. Feeding and exercising are key to growth and development. **Rom 10:8** *What it says is this: "God's message is near you, on your lips and in your heart"—that is, the message of faith that we preach.*

We have established that the measure of faith we have received can be increased by feeding on God's Word and by putting it into practice. Feed and activate. Feed and activate.

**Your faith increases when your expectations exceed your limitations.** It is up to us what we do with our measure of faith. We could bury it or we could use it to fight the Goliath's in our lives.

David the shepherd boy had one small stone to use but he had the faith to believe that Goliath's head will be his (1Sam:17:46); to fight against the powers of the enemy and his tactics, to overcome infirmities and struggles by activating that God given faith that has been built up in us through reading, studying, activating and speaking Gods word. Now is the time to activate our faith and see the miracles, see the supernatural at work in our church.

**You will only know the effect of your faith when you have activated it.** How? by giving your testimony and sharing the good news about Jesus and salvation and seeing people come to know Jesus; by praying for the sick and seeing God heal them; by praying for someone's need and seeing God meet that need; by praying for deliverance from occult practices and seeing people being delivered and set free; by praying for miracles and seeing those miracles come to pass; by giving to God in faith and seeing God's blessings over take you.

Now is your time to step out of the boat, now is the time to walk on the water, now is the time to activate your faith! Let's be daring, Let's be bold, Let's embrace change and let's

move forward. God is moving us to new locations because He wants to stretch us and put us in an environment where we can grow in our faith.

**Jesus loves you.** He has a great plan for your life. Only Jesus can go into your dark places and turn it around by lightening it up with his power. Only Jesus can save you from your sin and surround you with His love & his power. He died for you and He rose again from the dead for you. ( Activate Faith)

**Will you trust Jesus?** Will you put your life in his hands? Prayer : Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my sin, I know you died for me to set me free. I repent of all sin in my life and I ask you to forgive me. Be my Lord and Saviour.