

WHAT TO DO WHEN FAITH IS WEAK

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There are times in one's life when one feels low in faith. Confronted with a situation that is unpleasant, effort is made to change it, but situation still remains the same. Instead of your marriage improving things are getting worse. Having done all that you can, and hope is dashed and faith is weak, and you don't know what else to do, what do you do?

This is the position of many today. This may be your present position as far as your marriage is concerned. I want you to know that there is away to boost your faith and get yourself out of trouble. God has made it clear in the word that without faith; it is impossible to please him.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because any one who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

It is therefore the responsibility of every man to boost his own faith to enable him secure God's favor and help. Tears don't move God. Fasting and prayers without faith doesn't move God. Complaining and grumbling does not move God to help, but brings a curse.

“And now, O' ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart” (Malachi 2:1-2).

Having understood that only faith in God and his word that commits and moves God to action to change our circumstances and bring into existence that which our heart crave for it, it is therefore very important that we feed and boost our faith to keep it alive and active.

When faith is weak and you want to come alive to change your world, here are some faith boosters you need to practice to boost faith and come alive.

FAITH BOOSTERS

1. Encourage yourself in the Lord by reading testimonies of the acts of God in the bible and in our modern day.

“I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. When I felt secure, I said. ‘I

shall never be shaken.’ O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed. To you, O LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy; ‘what gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help; you turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever” (Psalm 30).

“I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me: let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him” (Psalm 34:1-8).

“David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David encouraged himself in the LORD his God” (1 Samuel 30:6).

2. Read passages in the Bible that encourages and assures you of God’s intervention, deliverance, and breakthrough.

“The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems his servants; no-one will be condemned who takes refuge in him” (Psalm 34:17-22).

“Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast in the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart” (Psalm 36:5-10).

“The days of the blameless are known to the LORD, and their inheritance will endure forever. In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty” (Psalm 37:18-19).

“But now, this is what the LORD says-he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you go through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior; I give Egypt

for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, "Give them up! And to the south, 'Do not hold them back'. Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, who I formed and made."... 'You are my witness,' declares the LORD, 'and my servants whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed - I, and not a foreign god among you. You are my witness, 'declares the LORD, 'that I am God. Yes and from ancient days, I am He. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?' (Isaiah 43:1-7, 10-13). Read also Isaiah 4:8-16

Scripture like this will encourage and strengthen your faith in God and in his word. What you need to overcome is faith.

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1Jn. 5:4).

Build your faith. Guard your mind against negative thoughts the enemy will project into your mind. Feed your mind with the word of God.

3 Meditate on the greatness and love of God for mankind, especially for you as a person.

"Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8).

Take time to think on the love of God and his ability to help you and bring your desire to pass. Most times when we are faced with nagging problems, we tend to forget the love of God for us. The bible teaches us that God so loved us that he gave his only beloved son Jesus Christ for us. There is no love greater than that. Never forget that. The one who bought your freedom with his lifeblood cannot abandon you in a tight corner. He will always be with you.

"And surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

His greatness should be your concentration. Meditate on these and your faith will receive a boost.

4 Apply praise while you lean on God expecting a change.

King Jehoshaphat of Judah led his people into victory over the allied forces of Moab, Ammon and the Meunites through praise. When these nations came together against Judah, Jehoshaphat called for a fast. They prayed as a nation, declaring their faith and confidence in God. After God spoke through a prophet that the battle is His not theirs, the king ordered that the praise singers should lead the army. What an unconventional way to go to war. When they began to praise God, God set ambush against their enemies and turned them against one another until they destroyed each other. Judah only arrived to meet the entire enemy soldiers wiped out. Praise delivered them from their enemies. Praise of the Almighty God in the midst of your problem will deliver you from your problems. Read 2Chronicles 20:1-30.

“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Don’t be depressed about your situation. Stop wearing a long and moody look. Cheer up. Be joyful always. To be joyful, you must cultivate the habit of giving thanks no matter the situation. The above scripture makes it clear that, it is God’s will that you thank him in all things. Thanksgiving is proof of confidence in the will and plan of God for your life. It is also a mark of submission to the wisdom of God. Thanksgiving in the midst of crises is a proof that you have confidence in the ability, willingness and readiness of God to deliver you and change your experience. Give him thanks always no matter what.

5 Pray in Tongues.

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life” (Jude 20,21).

“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church”
(1Corinth. 14:4).

When faith is down, and you want to stimulate yourself, speaking in tongues will charge you like a battery is charged. As you speak in tongues, all the weights of evil thoughts of doubt, fear, worry and anxiety is lifted, and you are able to rise above the negative thoughts and move in the spirit of faith. Build your faith through praying in the spirit. Always confess positive words.

“From the fruit of his mouth a man’s stomach is filled, with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (Prov. 18:20-21).

There is power in your tongue. Your tongue creates your experience. Your life is a manifestation of the fruits of your mouth. Your future is in your tongue. Therefore, don’t say what is that you don’t want, use the power of life and death in your tongue to kill and destroy the evil experience in your life, and create the experience you desire. Make confessions like: “it is well”, “God will not fail me”, “I am victorious”, “I am making it”, “my God will not disappoint me”, “things are getting better”, “by the stripes of Jesus Christ I am healed”, “I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me”, “My marriage is going to work and is already working”, “The bond between me and my spouse is getting stronger by the day”. Always be positive in your speech.

6 Refuse to throw in the towel. Don’t quit.

Hold onto the word of God. Hold onto your dream. Just refuse to quit no matter what.

“Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I myself will help you”, declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. “See, I will make you into a threshing-sledge new and sharp with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will, rejoice in the LORD and glory in the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 41:4-16).

Never give up no matter what. God is working something out for you. He is making a way where there is no way. Don't dwell on the past, see what God is doing. Picture in your mind that your desire is done. Refuse to see any other thing. See the open door. See your breakthrough come to you. See in your imagination the miracle happen, suddenly it will happen.

Quitters don't win, only those who hold on, that win. The patriarchs obtained the promise through patience. Abraham thought at a time that Sarah would never give him a child though he had the promise from God. That was why he accepted the suggestion of Sarah to sleep with Hagar. You need to understand that patient people inherit the promise. They became patient because they have absolute faith that God will not fail to keep his word. If you have faith, wait. God will eventually show up in His time. Don't quit your marriage. Don't go ahead with that separation or divorce plan. Patiently wait on God to do work on you and your partner and change your marriage experience.

CONCLUSION

I have given you seven things to do to make your faith come alive and stay alive. If your faith is weak, go to work on yourself immediately. Boost your faith. Do not forget that God does not respond to tears, but faith. "The just shall live by his faith". You can only live by your own faith and not another man's faith. You can't live on your pastor's faith either. Develop your faith. Keep your faith active and productive always. Block out negative thoughts and set your mind on the word of God as suggested.

Your marriage will work if you boost and keep your faith. Your spouse will become better and give you less problem. Your finances will improve and you will be able to meet all your family financial obligations. Work on building and keeping your faith.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1. It takes God to change people.**
- 2. Quarrelling does not change people or situations.**
- 3. Becoming more like Christ is the pathway to marital bliss.**
- 4. Your children are the blessings and responsibilities of your marriage.**
- 5. Your children's habits and character depends on your investment of love, time and money into their lives.**
- 6. Time and effort invested in making yourselves compatible is a good investment that will definitely pay off in the end.**
- 7. The liveliness of your family altar determines how far your marriage will receive God's support.**
- 8. Invest love and time in helping one another overcome your weaknesses.**
- 9. Give allowance for failure knowing that you too do fail sometimes, and you will always want your spouse to understand and bear with you.**
- 10. Say and do unto your spouse what you will have her say and do unto you.**