

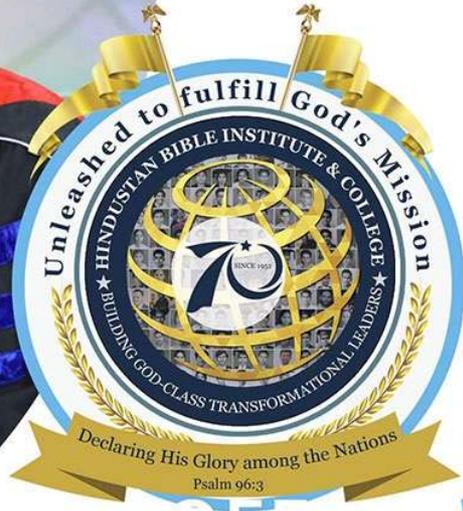
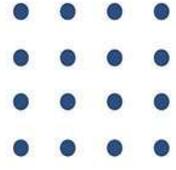
LIGHTHOUSE

Issue 9 | Volume 1 | August 2023



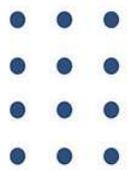
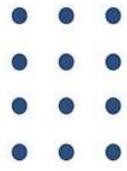
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For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,

"The Just shall live by faith."

Romans 1:17 (KJV)



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We provide inspirational messages from experienced people, testimonials, and personal stories, as well as fun activities like Bible puzzles, quizzes, and historical facts. You are always welcome to share your stories and experiences with us.

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Clay to Conquerors

The theme for the year 2023 that has been prayerfully chosen is **"Faith Makes All Things Possible."** It is an awesome journey that God has given us the privilege to be a part of—from mere clay by which He formed us to being more than conquerors and having eternal lives with Him through the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will be celebrating our 76th Indian Independence Day on the 15th August 2023. It is celebrated as a special day of remembrance of the independence gained by our Freedom Fighters and so many others who gave themselves fearlessly to the cause of gaining freedom for the nation from the rule of the British. Independence and freedom meant so much to the Indians and to all who were under foreign rule.

I reflect on the way God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians with an iron hand through His servants Moses, Aaron, and Joshua. A stubborn and stiff-necked people who, for years, were in bondage and slavery and did not appreciate the gift of freedom that God gifted to them. It was not the ten plagues or the parting of the Red Sea that engineered the deliverance of the Israelites that I wish to focus on, but the route to the promised land—a land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites sent their spies to spy the land and did not trust in the Lord our God to help them to overcome the people who dwelt there. This is indeed alarming when you realise that they had seen the mighty power of the Lord as He delivered them with a mighty arm from bondage and slavery – the plagues and the parting of the red sea.

Even though they disobeyed God and refused to enter the Promised land they were sustained day in and day out for forty years in the wilderness by the sheer magnitude of the love, mercy, and grace of God.

They had to be fed, and feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food. According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1500 tonnes of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day, two freight trains, each at least a mile long, would be required!

Besides, you must remember that they were out in the desert, so they would have to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4000 tonnes of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.

However, God gave them Manna from heaven, and when they got tired of that, He provided quail to drop in for them. And, oh yes! They would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day and a freight train with tank cars, 1800 miles long, just to bring water! God gave them a never-ending supply of water from The Rock".

God has not and will not change. For us today, He has provided us redemption from the bondage and slavery of sin through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross and bore the sins of the world. He has further invested in us His Holy Spirit to help us overcome sin and temptation and never be enslaved by sin. In summary, whatever we are going through, always remember that God knows us and how much we can bear. My prayer for each of you is that you experience God in a special manner, as Moses, Aaron, and Joshua did. Let us enjoy the freedom we have in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Let our attitude be one of humility, repentance, and worship, knowing how awesome our God is and that He is always in control of all things.

Take heart, for He who is in you is far greater than He who is in the world. God Bless you, and may this edition be of great encouragement to you. "Faith makes all things possible—even freedom from sin through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

-Mr. Dev Daniel
Editor-in-Chief

TEST YOUR BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE

Q1. What is the longest name in the Bible?

Q2. What does the Bible say about tattoos?

Q3. What book has the longest verse in the New Testament?

Q4. Who helped Jesus carry the cross?

Q5. Will we know our loved ones in heaven?

Q6. Who said to whom: "A person sees what is in front of his eyes, but God sees the heart"?

Q7. Which Roman was in charge of cultivation in Syria at the time of Jesus' birth?

Q8. What does Jahwe-Schammah mean?

Q9. Where is "Satan's throne"?

Q10. Where did Paul leave his coat?

Answers in Pg. 24



Don't blame the
situation or person when
you lose because you
never gonna appreciate
the situation or the
person when you won.

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Bible Quiz

Participants can register by visiting: joinmyquiz.com

Enter this code:

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Deadline: August 13, 2023

THE WALLS WILL FALL



-Bro. Phillip Ruben

The enemy builds walls in our lives, one brick at a time. Doubts, fear, negative thinking, generational curses, hatred, unforgiveness, oppression, depression, and addiction are the bricks. The devil constantly tells us in our minds, "**There is no way out, no way to be free,**" enslaving us to our sins.

Let us examine Joshua's life in Joshua chapter 6 and understand what God is saying to us about the walls breaking down in our lives.

- **God Gave Joshua a Simple Instruction**

God commands Joshua and the Israelites to march around the walls of Jericho once for six days and then seven times on the seventh day. Joshua may have regarded this as unbelievable, but he followed orders.

Many times, when God instructs us to do something beyond our understanding, we wonder why we should do it. There is no purpose to fasting and praying, not believing in miracles, and trying to solve our problems in our own way rather than following God's simple formula, His simple prescription for a miracle He has planned for us. If we want the walls to fall, we must fast, pray, and have faith in God.

- **Joshua Looked Up to God, Not the Wall**

According to Joshua 5, Joshua saw the captain of the angel's armies, the commander of the armies of heaven, standing with a sword in his hand. For the following seven days, Joshua's attention was centred on God and his messengers rather than the enormous wall that stood before them. And when Joshua and the Israelites got down and began worshipping and obeying God by marching around the walls, the walls collapsed without the use of heavy machinery. The Psalmist brilliantly quotes the Lord, who created the heavens and the earth.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
From whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."

- Psalm 121:1-2

So, when we fast and pray, we must turn our entire focus away from problems and turn towards God, who is strong and mighty enough to break down our walls. God says,

.....>

“He is the Lord, and He will lead you and guide you; He will honour you and raise you; God will heal your heart and make a way for you. He will bless you.”

<.....

Fasting and praying will help us focus on God rather than the walls.

- **Take off Your Shoes, for You are on Holy Ground**

Joshua 5:15 says,

“And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”

Taking off your shoes indicates letting go of the past. God says in Deuteronomy 29:5 that he led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years, and their garments and sandals did not wear out. The Israelites wore the same shoes for 40 years, and now God tells Joshua that the Israelites are about to enter the Promised Land, and by taking off the shoes, God is encouraging Joshua and the Israelites to let go of the past. The past refers to the Israelites' past conduct and behaviours.

In **Ephesians 6:15**, Paul says that,

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

The gospel shoes symbolize being prepared. Prepare to fast and pray, and when you pray, take off your shoes and let God fight your battles. God wants us to be silent, not fight the battles in our own way, and surrender to Him.

All that was needed from Joshua was for him to follow God's simple instructions and believe that the walls of Jericho would fall down in seven days. Next, he was asked to focus on God and not on the walls. Then he was asked to take away the shoes and be still, and God would crush down the walls for them.

If we read Joshua chapter 1, we see God asking Joshua to be **“Strong and Courageous, for I am with you”**.

If we meditate on God's word day and night, our faith in God will grow, and God will raise us up from the ashes, supplying all our needs according to His riches and glory. Wake up with His word and go to bed with His word. Listen to His word through podcasts and social media platforms. The more we hear the word of God, the stronger we will grow in faith. The word of God will make us strong and courageous.

If you are wondering why nothing good is happening in your life, start meditating on God's word. Only God can open doors that no man can shut. Confess every day that "I will be bold and courageous; I will prosper; I will be successful."

You do not have to live a defeated life. God wants each of us to be prosperous and successful. All that is needed is,

- Following God's simple instructions
- Fixing eyes on the commander of the armies
- Taking off the shoes and being still, letting God do the rest

Further, when we read Joshua chapter 2, we see that Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. They lodged in a harlot's house named Rahab. When Jericho's king sent men to capture these spies, Rahab helped them by hiding them from being captured. Then she asks the spies to spare her family when they conquer Jericho. She bound the scarlet line in the window. That represents the bloodline of her family, which is the bloodline of Jesus Christ. Rahab was a prostitute, but because she helped God's people escape, she and her family were spared from death.

Rahab's past was not held against her. Rahab was the mother of Boaz, who married Ruth. Ruth and Boaz had Obed, and Obed's son was Jesse. Jesse's son was David, and we all know that Jesus was the descendant of David. The generational curses on you and your generations will be broken if you seek solace in God.



- **Be Quiet and Do Not Speak a Word**

When the Israelites began marching, they were asked to be silent and make no noise or complain about the wall. Similarly, we should learn to do certain things, namely,

- *Stop blaming others
- *Stop complaining
- *Hold the tongue and do not speak harshly to anyone
- *Keep away from negative thoughts and people who speak negatively

Proverbs 29:11 says,

“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.”

Psalms 141:3 says,

“Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.”



Seek God's guidance to speak words of victory and not defeat. The Holy Spirit will intervene and guide you. Set a guard over your mouth and be silent. When God told Joshua to be silent, the enemies were only able to hear the sound of Joshua and the Israelites marching for seven days. Then on the seventh day, seven rounds of trumpets were blown, and the Jericho wall came crashing down.

If there is a wall in your marriage, remember that you are God's instrument, and the Holy Spirit will break down the walls in your marriage. The Bible says in Mark 10:9,

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

In Hebrews 13:4, we read that marriage has to be honoured, and in Ephesians 5:33, we read that husbands need to love their wives and wives have to respect their husbands. So, if you fast and pray and choose to rejoice in God, He can restore your marriage.

There is power in fasting and praying. It can move mountains and tear down walls. Let us learn to fast and pray.

"Stop focusing on the wall and focus on God, who can redeem you from all your sins and ancestral curses and lift you up again."

I am Affirmations

Ephesians 1:7

I am **deeply loved, fully forgiven, and accepted as a child of God.**

Luke 1:28

I am **blessed and highly favored** by the Lord.

Romans 8:37

I am **more than a conqueror** through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:1

I am free from **condemnation.**

Hebrew 13:5

I am **never** alone.

The Lohanas



The Indian merchant Lohana is also known as Loharana, Thakkar, or Lohrana. They belonged to the Indo-Aryan ethnic group and were referred to as the "Masters of Swords." Their dominant caste, the Kshatriya Rajputs, originated in Iran and Afghanistan, moved to Punjab, and now mostly inhabit Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, and other locations across the nation. It is thought that Lohanas are descendants of the mythical Rama. They speak Gujarati, and their secondary languages are Sindhi, Hindi, Marwari, Konkani, Ahirani, Mewari, Marathi, Dhundari, Kacchi, Malvi, Sourashtra, Braj Bhasha, and Shekhawati.

Lohanas are one of the dominant communities of Gujarat. The community council looks out for their welfare and helps deserving students who are struggling to pay for their education. The faith that is most common of these people is Hinduism. The term "Memon" is used to refer to many Lohanas who converted to Sunni Islam.

Let's pray for the Lohanas tribe that the gospel will quickly spread throughout these communities and also that people would place a high value on education.

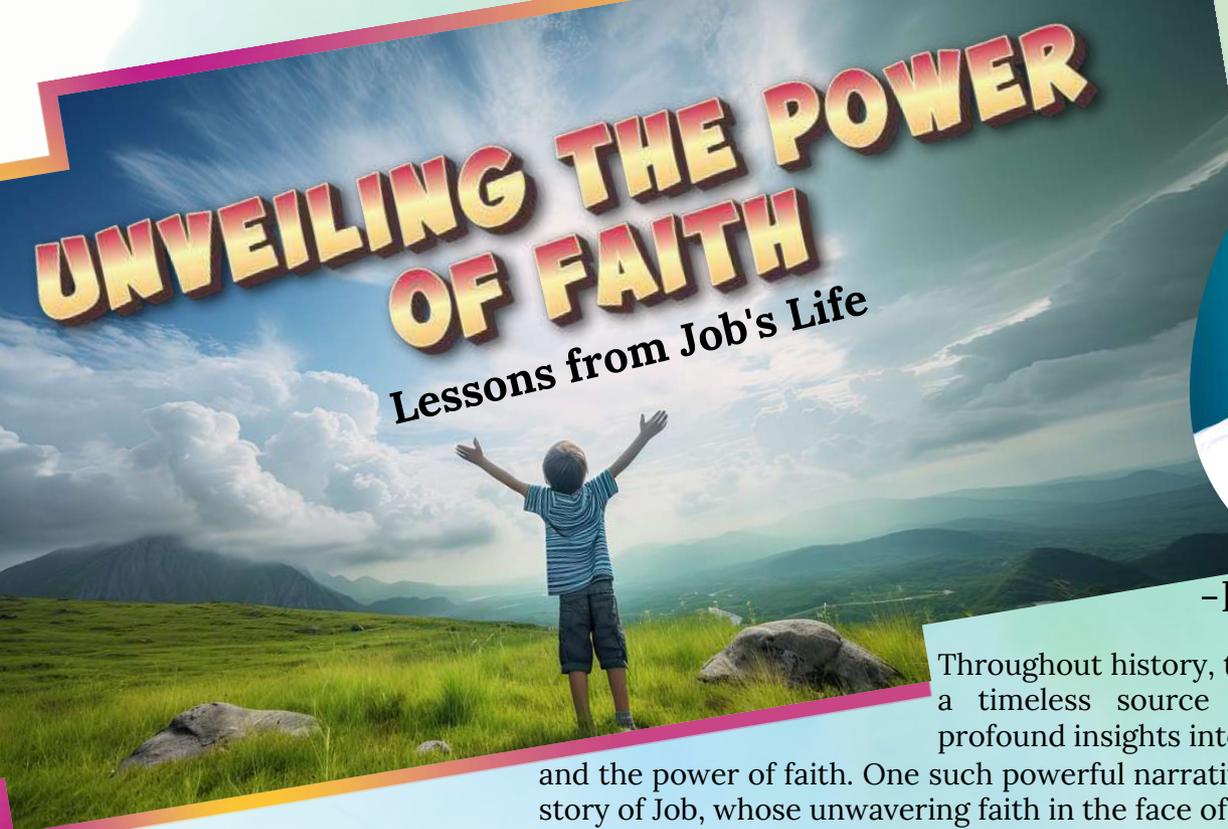


UNVEILING THE POWER OF FAITH

Lessons from Job's Life



-Ps. Victor Kumar



Throughout history, the Bible has served as a timeless source of wisdom, offering profound insights into human conditions and the power of faith. One such powerful narrative can be found in the story of Job, whose unwavering faith in the face of immense suffering exemplifies how faith can make seemingly impossible things possible. Job's journey provides valuable lessons that resonate with believers and non-believers alike, demonstrating the transformative power of faith in overcoming adversity and finding hope in the darkest of times.

The Life of Job: A Man of Faith

Job, a wealthy and righteous man from the land of Uz, stood as a shining example of devotion and integrity. Blessed with abundant possessions, a loving family, and good health, Job's life appeared idyllic. However, his faith was tested when he lost everything in a series of tragic events. Despite facing extreme afflictions, including the loss of his children, his wealth, and his own health, Job refused to abandon his faith.

The Testing of Job's Faith

Satan, in a conversation with God, suggested that Job's faith was merely a result of his prosperous circumstances. To test this theory, God permitted Satan to strip Job of his possessions, his loved ones, and even his physical well-being. Job's life swiftly spiralled into a state of despair and suffering, yet he clung to his faith, refusing to curse God.

Restoration and Blessings

As a testament to Job's unyielding faith, God restored Job's fortunes twofold. Job's friends, who had doubted his innocence, were rebuked, and Job's faithfulness was vindicated. His children were replaced, and his wealth was multiplied, bringing him greater prosperity than before. Job's life serves as a reminder that faith, even in the face of tremendous hardship, can lead to restoration and blessings beyond measure.

The Dark Night of the Soul

Job's unwavering faith was put to the ultimate test. Afflicted with painful boils and abandoned by his friends, Job questioned the purpose of his suffering. In the depths of his anguish, he yearned for an audience with God, seeking answers to the age-old question of why the righteous suffer. Job's plight is a poignant reminder that even the strongest faith can waver in the face of overwhelming adversity.

The Revelation of God's Wisdom

In response to Job's plea, God appeared and revealed His infinite wisdom, reminding Job of His sovereignty and omniscience. Through a series of divine questions, God humbled Job and expanded his understanding, demonstrating that humans cannot fully comprehend the ways of the divine. Job's encounter with God served as a turning point, deepening his faith and allowing him to find solace and hope amidst his suffering.

Lessons from Job's Life

Trusting in God's Sovereignty

Job's story reminds us of the importance of trusting in God's sovereignty, even in the face of adversity. Despite not understanding the reasons behind his suffering, Job never lost faith in God's ultimate control over his life. This teaches us that faith involves surrendering our limited understanding and trusting in a higher plan.

Perseverance in Faith

Job's unwavering faith demonstrates the power of perseverance. He did not allow his circumstances to dictate his belief in God's goodness. Instead, he clung to his faith, even when it seemed unreasonable to do so. Job's example challenges us to remain steadfast in our faith during difficult times, knowing that God's purposes often unfold in ways we cannot comprehend.

Finding Strength in Community

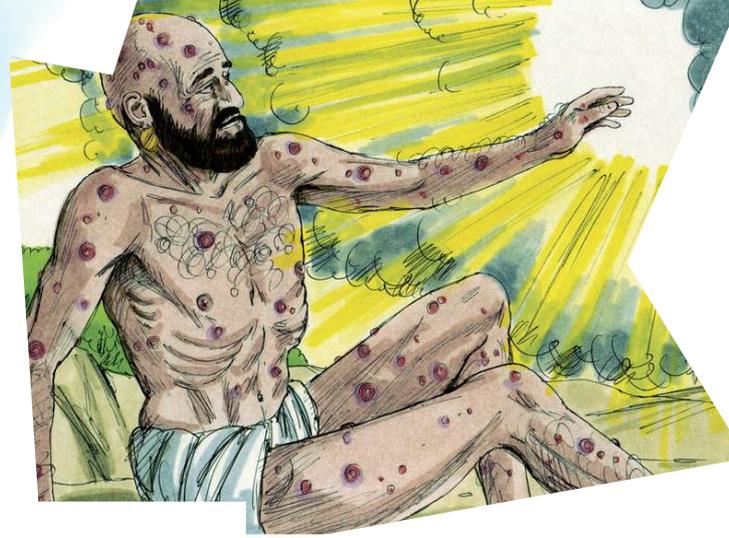
Although Job faced criticism from his friends, their presence highlights the importance of community during times of trial. While their advice may have been flawed, their willingness to be present and engage in dialogue with Job shows the value of companionship and support. Job's story reminds us that surrounding ourselves with genuine friends and seeking wise counsel can help us navigate the challenges we encounter.

The Power of Humility

When God revealed His wisdom to Job, it humbled him. Job realized the limitations of his understanding and accepted that some answers were beyond his grasp. This humbling experience deepened Job's faith and allowed him to grow spiritually. Likewise, embracing humility enables us to acknowledge our human limitations and place our trust in a higher power, fostering a stronger connection with God.

Reinstatement and Redemption

Job's story concludes with his restoration and blessings. This serves as a reminder that God is faithful and rewards those who endure through faith. While our own journeys may not mirror Job's exact circumstances, his story assures us that restoration and redemption can emerge from the darkest moments of our lives. Faith in God's promises offers hope for a brighter future, even when all seems lost.



Conclusion

The story of Job provides a profound testimony to the power of faith. Despite enduring unimaginable suffering, Job's steadfast faith allowed him to persevere and ultimately find redemption. His story serves as an inspiration for believers, emphasizing that faith can move mountains and make the impossible possible. It teaches us that faith is not merely an abstract concept but a force capable of transforming lives and bringing hope to the hopeless.

Just as Job's faith sustained him through his trials, we too can draw strength from his example. In our own lives, we encounter challenges that may seem insurmountable. However, by embracing faith and trusting in a higher power, we can navigate these obstacles with resilience and hope. The story of Job teaches us that even in the midst of despair, there is always room for faith to shine through and make all things possible.

The story of Job teaches us that faith transcends our circumstances and empowers us to overcome the seemingly impossible. Job's unwavering trust in God's sovereignty, perseverance in faith, reliance on community, humility, and eventual restoration all serve as timeless lessons that inspire and encourage believers today.

In the face of our own trials and tribulations, we can draw strength from Job's story. By placing our faith in God, we can navigate the storms of life with resilience, finding comfort in the knowledge that our faith makes things possible. Just as Job's story has resonated for centuries, may we too embrace the transformative power of faith and discover the limitless possibilities it can bring to our lives.

Spiritual Life Conference 2023

03 Jul to 07 July, 2023



Resource People along with HBI Chairman



Rev. Dr. Ashok Andrews
(Pastor, Kolkata Christian Fellowship)



Rev. Dr. Ravi Jones
(SFPC Director, HBI)



Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gupta
(Chairman, HBI)



Worship led by Mrs. Diana along with the students



Mrs. Malini Asirvatham (President, HBI)



Academic Faculties, Staff and Students of HBI



Mr. Greeto Racharia (Faculty, HBI) motivating students



Mrs. Malini Asirvatham (Faculty & President, HBI) motivating students



Mr. Poujik Kamei (Faculty, HBI) motivating students

The Grace of Sustaining

THE GOD WHO SUSTAINS

-Mr. Isaac Newton

We hope this session will help you live in God's grace in all areas of your life.

As you begin:

- 1) As you reflect on your time with God last week from your practise, what encouraged you from Zephaniah 3:17?
- 2) What does "rest" mean to you? When do you know you feel truly rested?

3) Resting in God:

In the last session, we discussed how we can trust God with our burdens and how we can work from an attitude of rest in God. God has given us ways to rest in Him.

Read Psalm 103:13-14

- a) What do you learn about the Lord's character?
- b) What does the Lord know about us? How does this encourage you?

4) God knows what we need to do

Taking care of our families and our health is just as important as ministering. God gave us 24 hours in which to work. Sometimes, leaders try to do more than what God asks. Sometimes we have a busy season in life when we must work long hours. We need to pray over these seasons and talk with others who are impacted by our overwork. In his love, God wants to sustain you. He most often does it through ordinary means, like rest or family.

5) These are areas where God has designed us to have needs:

- Spiritual
- Physical
- Relational
- Emotional

6) In Jesus' life

Reflect on what you know about Jesus' life. If you have time, you may choose to read these extra verses. Individuals or partners may read different verses and share what they learn with the group. Mark 6:30-31; Mark 1:35; John 2:1-2; Luke 7:34; Mark 4:38; Mark 14:32-34.1.

1. How did Jesus meet his needs?

• Spiritually? • Physically? • Relationally? • Emotionally?

2. Why is each of these areas important?

3. What do we need in each area to be healthy? Make a list together.

4. Which areas are more difficult for you to maintain balance in? What are the challenges?

5. As a group, share ideas on how to overcome these challenges.

7) We need to choose how we spend our time

We cannot do everything, even every good thing. God does not expect us to do more than we are able to do. We are dependent on him. He is not dependent on us. God says he will honour those who trust him. To trust him is to do things the way he has designed them.

8) Reflecting on our practises with God

This time of reflection is meant to bring joy and freedom. When we live within our limits, God is honoured. When we steward our family, relationships, body, and health, God is honoured. Take time to individually reflect and complete your plan for "Planting Seeds of Practise." Individually, make a list of what you are already doing in each of these areas to sustain yourself. Celebrate this!

• Spiritually • Physically • Relationally • Emotionally

Ask God: Do you need to add something to one or several of these areas to honour God?

If so, what is he calling you to add?

• Spiritually: • Physically: • Relationally: • Emotionally:

After completing the list, ask God, "What do you want me to know about the things I am listing to add?"

- Share your concerns with God.
- Listen to his response.

Blessing

May you go this week in the power of the Lord, in his wisdom, and in his design.

Rooted in the Gospel

Jesus knew the weaknesses of being human. He had the same limits as we do. Still present with us, he knows your limitations. He has risen not so that we can overcome all limitations but so that we can have his strength as we go to him. **Hebrews 4:15-16**

Source: This material is a section of the Timothy Leadership Training video and pdf course; if you are interested in studying this material as a group, please contact Mr. Isaac at (+91) 8438534525 or isaacbsf@gmail.com.

Planting Seeds of Practise

Before the next session:

a) Choose one of the things you wrote on your "to add" list. How will you begin doing that this week? When?

b) You may also want to find time this week to discuss any remaining concerns with God.

c) Share one thing you will do this week with a person in the group and pray for each other. If you are doing this individually, ask someone to pray for you.

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Helen Howarth Lemmel was born in 1864 to a Wesleyan Methodist pastor in Wardle, England. Helen loved music, and her parents encouraged her by providing her with the best vocal teachers to train her. When she was 12 years old, her father immigrated to America. Helen H. Lemmel soon became a known gifted singer, travelled the Midwest of America in the early 1900s, and gave many concerts of patriotic music and hymns in churches. She returned to Europe for four years to study vocal music in Germany and later married a European.

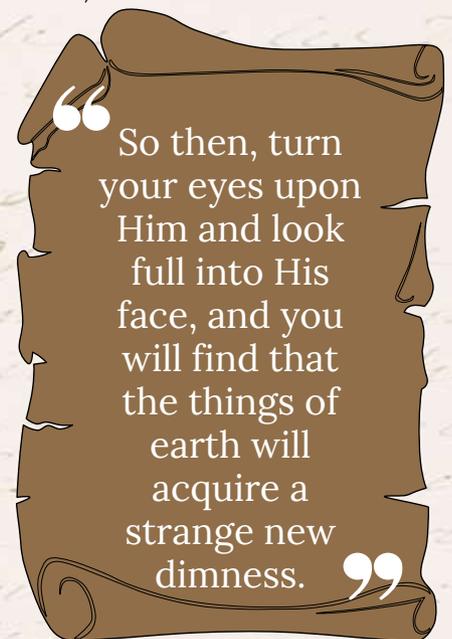


Helen H. Lemmel taught vocal music at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. She had outstanding literary talent and wrote numerous poems and hymns. She also directed and sang in a women's vocal ensemble that ministered in evangelists' meetings.

When she was 55 years old, she received a gospel tract titled "**Focused**," and the **missionary, Isabella Lillias Trotter**, had written these lines:

Helen H. Lemmel developed an illness that caused her to go blind. Her husband abandoned her as she became blind. Though this broke her, she continued to rely fully on Jesus and continued to compose more hymns and poems. And in 1922, she composed this song, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus". The hymn became famous and was published the same year in London. It was introduced at the Keswick Bible Conference in England after four years and first appeared in America in 1924.

Lemmel wrote more than 500 hymns and poems and composed several children's musical pieces in her lifetime. She died in Seattle, Washington, in 1961, at the age of 97.



“ So then, turn your eyes upon Him and look full into His face, and you will find that the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness. ”

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" is a wonderful song that encourages Christians to focus on Jesus and not the challenges of life. There will be troubles and hardships in this world, but when we turn to Jesus, looking fully into His wonderful face, the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.



A LIFE OF MUSIC—Seated at her tiny pianola, 93-year-old Mrs. Helen Howarth Lemmel seems to reflect on her remarkable singing and composing career during which she has traveled over most of the world. Although she is an invalid and has been blind for about 10 years, Mrs. Lemmel is still at work composing religious hymns. 400

Here are the lyrics of the beautiful hymn **“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”**:

“O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There’s light for a look at the Saviour,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conq’rors we are!

His Word shall not fail you—he promised;
Believe him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

BIBLE PUZZLE

Guess the Bible Incident

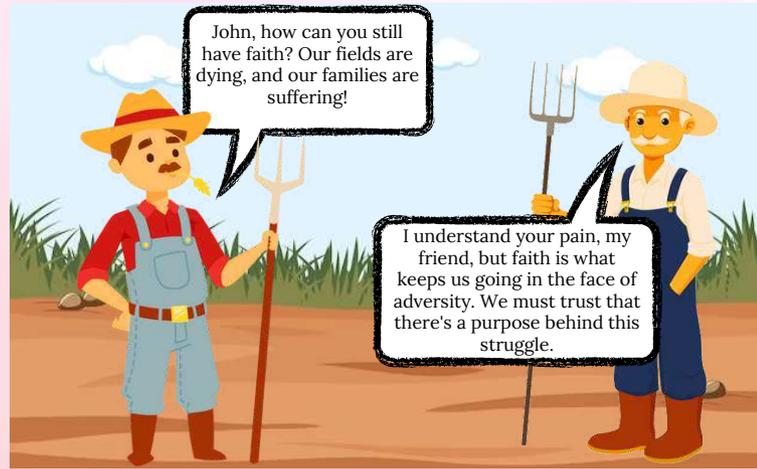
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MIRACLE SEEDS: A TALE OF UNWAVERING FAITH



"Remember! Faith Can Move Mountains"

FAITH

in Times of Doubt



Finding Strength and Assurance

-Ms. Suneera Lincy

*I*n our journey of faith, doubt is a natural and common experience.

There may be moments when questions arise, uncertainties cloud our minds, and we struggle to find reassurance. However, it is precisely in these times of doubt that our faith can grow stronger as we seek deeper understanding and connection with God. Throughout history, individuals have grappled with doubt, only to find renewed faith and confidence in the presence of God. Let's explore the significance of maintaining faith in God during times of doubt, drawing inspiration from biblical teachings and relevant examples.

The Nature of Doubt

Doubt can arise for various reasons: intellectual challenges, personal struggles, unanswered prayers, or the presence of evil in the world. It is essential to recognize that doubt is not a sign of weakness but an invitation to seek truth and a deeper understanding of our faith. The Bible acknowledges doubt and offers guidance on how to navigate through it.

**"For we walk
by faith, not
by sight."**

- 2 Corinthians 5:7

Doubt is not uncommon, even among those closest to God, but through seeking and encountering God, doubts can be resolved, leading to a strengthened faith. Here are a few tips on what we should do when we have doubts in our lives.

1) Seeking God in Doubt

During times of doubt, it is important to turn to God and seek His guidance, wisdom, and truth. Through prayer, meditation, and studying His Word, we open ourselves to receiving the clarity and assurance we need. The Bible provides numerous verses that encourage us to seek God in times of uncertainty.

Biblical Characters Who Experienced Doubt

Prophet Elijah, after witnessing God's power on Mount Carmel, doubted his purpose and fell into despair. In his moment of doubt, God provided reassurance and guidance, reminding him of His presence and faithfulness. (1 King 19:9-18)

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, struggled with doubt after Jesus' resurrection. He needed tangible proof to believe in it. Jesus, in His compassion, appeared to Thomas, allowing him to touch His wounds and strengthening his faith (John 20:24-29).

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

- Matthew 7:7

2) God's Faithfulness and Promises

One of the foundations of our faith is the unwavering faithfulness of God. Throughout the Scriptures, we find promises that assure us of God's presence, love, and guidance, even amid doubt and uncertainty.

.....>

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

- Psalm 34:18 ”

.....<

3) Learning from the Faith of Others

In times of doubt, we can draw inspiration from the experiences of others who have faced similar challenges and emerged with stronger faith. Throughout history, countless people of God have grappled with doubt and found solace in God's presence.

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 8:38-39

C.S. Lewis, a renowned Christian author and theologian, went through a period of doubt, which he described as "**a good, solid, resounding atheism.**" However, through intellectual exploration and encountering God's grace, Lewis found his way back to faith and became a powerful voice for Christianity.

Thus, doubt is an integral part of our spiritual journey, and we should not be discouraged by its presence. Instead, we can view doubt as an opportunity for growth, seeking deeper understanding, and strengthening our faith in God. By turning to Him, studying His Word, seeking guidance through prayer, and learning from the experiences of others, we can find assurance in His faithfulness and promises.

As we navigate the complexities of doubt, let us remember that,

Our faith can be deepened and transformed, leading us to a more profound relationship with our loving and ever-present God.

4) Embracing the Mystery

Faith does not require absolute certainty or the absence of doubt. It involves embracing the mystery and complexity of our relationship with God. It is acknowledging that our finite minds may not comprehend everything fully while still trusting in God's infinite wisdom and goodness.

.....>

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

- Isaiah 55:8 ”

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Faith in God and Ethics in a Changing World Navigating Moral Compass in Today's Society

In a rapidly changing world, where ethical values and standards are constantly evolving, young people often face the challenge of aligning their faith in God with the prevailing moral climate. Nurturing a strong foundation of faith can guide youth to make ethical choices that reflect their beliefs and values. This article aims to explore the intersection of faith in God and ethics, emphasizing the importance of staying grounded in biblical principles while navigating the complexities of a changing society.

- **The Unchanging Truth of God's Word**

In an ever-changing world, the Word of God stands as a steadfast anchor for ethical guidance. The Bible provides timeless truths and principles that transcend cultural shifts and societal norms. Grounding our ethical framework in God's Word helps us navigate the complexities of contemporary issues while remaining true to our faith.

All Scripture is
breathed out by God
and profitable for
teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and
for training in
righteousness.

- 2 Timothy 3:16

- **Discerning Cultural Influences**

As young people, it is important to critically examine cultural influences and trends to evaluate their alignment with biblical principles. Not all societal norms may align with God's standards of righteousness and justice. Developing discernment allows us to differentiate between what is morally acceptable and what may lead us astray from our faith.

- **Engaging in Constructive Dialogue**

Engaging in open and respectful dialogue is essential for young people to express their faith-based ethical perspectives in a changing world. Communicating our convictions with love and humility allows for meaningful conversations that contribute to a deeper understanding of differing viewpoints and potential avenues for positive change.

- **Cultivating a Christlike Character**

Integrating faith and ethics involves cultivating a Christlike character. By allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts and minds, we can exhibit virtues such as love, compassion, integrity, and humility. Our character becomes a testimony of our faith, drawing others to the transformative power of God's love.

- **Seeking Guidance from Wise Counsel**

In a world of moral ambiguity, seeking guidance from wise mentors, spiritual leaders, and trusted individuals is invaluable. Their wisdom and experience can provide insights, support, and guidance as we navigate ethical dilemmas and make informed choices that align with our faith.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Romans 12:2

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

- Galatians 5:22-23

• Being Agents of Positive Change

Faith in God empowers young people to become agents of positive change in the world. Inspired by biblical teachings on justice, compassion, and the inherent value of every human being, youth can actively work towards creating a more ethical and just society. Engaging in acts of service, advocating for the marginalized, and promoting equality and fairness reflect our commitment to living out our faith ethically.

As young people navigate the complexities of a changing world, their faith in God provides a moral compass to guide ethical decision-making. Grounded in the unchanging truths of God's Word, they can discern cultural influences, engage in constructive dialogue, cultivate Christlike character, seek guidance from wise counsel, and be agents of positive change. By integrating faith and ethics, youth can navigate the challenges of a changing world with integrity while impacting society with the transformative power of God's love and righteousness.

ANSWERS FOR "TEST YOUR BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE" IN PG. 6

1. Mahershalalhashbaz
2. You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you (Leviticus 19:28)
3. Using NIV, the longest verse in the New Testament is Revelation 20:4, which consists of 68 words.
4. Simon of Cyrene
5. Yes we will. A good example is the rich man recognized father Abraham and Lazarus while he was in hell
6. God to Samuel
7. Cyrenius
8. God himself/Ezekiel 48,35
9. In purgatory/Revelations 2,12.13
10. In Troas, Carpus

BIBLE FACTS

Did you know that Luke was not a disciple of Jesus but Paul's disciple, and that he was also not Jewish; he was a Roman?

The Job Book is the most scientific book in the Bible because it talks about:

- Meteorology: Job 28:25
- Astronomy: Job 26:7
- Geology: Job 37: 6-10

Who wrote the epistle to the Romans? It was written by Tertius; Paul just dictated it.

Did you know that the Book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that does not mention God's name?

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To be a guiding light to direct people to run their race with perseverance without being wavered by the storms or broken by dangerous perilous rocks.

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