

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys.

Exercising Faith

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

¹¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

“The invisible becomes visible through the force of faith.”

Pastor Kris Vallerton

The Difference Between Faith and Belief

Faith involves trust and confidence and endures in the face of doubt.

Belief is something we take to be true.

**We can hold a belief that God exists
but have no faith in Him.**

Romans 12:3 (KJV)

³ 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.**

Matthew 17:19–20 (NIV)

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

²⁰ He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Little = Gk. *oligos* = brief

Proverbs 13:12 (NLT)

¹² Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

Hope = The expectation and desire that something will happen

It is not deferring what we hope for that makes the heart sick, it is **deferring hope**.

Peters “Brief” Faith

Matthew 14:28–31 (NLT)

²⁸ Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

²⁹ “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “**You have so little faith,**” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

How Does our Faith Grow?

1. Faith comes by hearing

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

How Does our Faith Grow?

2. Trials of our faith

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

How Does our Faith Grow?

2. Trials of our faith

1 Peter 1:6–7 (NLT)

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

Next Season versus New Season

Isaiah 42:9–10 (JPS)

⁹ Behold, the former things are come to pass, and **new things** do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

¹⁰ Sing unto the LORD a **new song**, and His **praise** from the end of the earth...

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