

CHRISTIANITY 101 (FAITH)

As we move into higher levels of faith, at some point, it will cost us something.

There will be times when it is frightening to obey and trust God, it will take courage.

We achieve increased faith by spiritual exercise, which works a lot like physical exercise.

It takes consistent exercise, just to maintain our current level of faith.

If we want to increase our faith, we have to go beyond the current level of exercise and do more.

Faith requires spiritual disciplines, things that help us to grow.

Spiritual disciplines will increase our level of faith.

Faith refers to an act of placing trust in someone or something.

When we trust in God, there is evidence of that faith and our walk or our relationship with Christ.

What does that relationship look like?

How do we exercise our faith?

1. By attending church.

Encouraging one another.

Being accountable to one another.

2. By reading your Bible.

We are greatly privileged to have the Word of God

The Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

3. By praying unto God.

Start out by thanking God.

Then make your requests.

Take a minute to listen for God to speak to you, it should be a two way conversation.

4. By giving.

Give to God.

Give to people in need, as unto the Lord (as if you were giving to the Lord).

5. By serving.

6. By praising.

7. By telling other people (witnessing / evangelizing).

Personal observations concerning general categories of Christians.

1. The casual Christian.

Like King Saul, shallow, giving into fear.

Made a decision for God at one time, but little evidence of transformation.

Maybe attends church only on Christmas and Easter.

Still used to old ways of thinking and old habits.

Most people around them, outside of church, do not know they are a Christian.
Little or no spiritual fruit in their lives.

2. A growing young believer.

Like young King David.
On fire for God and loves being in the Lord's presence.
Knows what God saved them from.
People around them, outside the church, know they are a Christian.
Active in many aspects of the church.
Shares with others about their faith.
Gives money in the offering whenever possible.
Discipled by older believers.

3. Mature believer.

Like Joseph.
Has been through the fire, knows what it's like to suffer for righteousness sake and comes out stronger than before.
Does not give up or complain, trusts in God in spite of trials.
Gives regular tithes and offerings and are happy about it.
Regular devotions and prayer time.
Disciples new believers.
Understands the gifts God has given them and uses them.
Usually elders or ministry leaders
Has the respect of all who know them.
Shares Christ readily with anyone.
Fasting is a normal thing.
Prays over people readily.

4. Stagnate believer.

Like Solomon.
Lives a cushy life, grew up spoiled.
Saved since a young age.
Active in church most of their lives, because of habit or because they were forced.
Not a part of a ministry to give out.
Like the Dead Sea, the flow comes in but does not flow out, does not give life.
Overly concerned with their own comfort and desires, self-centered.
Tries to live on past experience rather than the present reality.
Leaves evangelism to others.
Tithes only because it's required.
Does not fast and pray.

SCRIPTURE LIST

Hebrews 11

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Psalm 119:11

James 5:16

Luke 6:38

Romans 14:17-18

Psalm 34:1-9

Matthew 28:18-20

1 Samuel 13

Romans 12:3