

You Have To Believe It To See It

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

For we live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. John 20:29 (NIV)

Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Genesis 12:4 (NIV)

What Keeps Us From Believing? Three P's:

1. Pleasure

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see... 1 John 2:16a (NLT)

a. Faith is our reward deposit.

Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great." Genesis 15:1 (NLT)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11: 6 (NIV)

2. Pride

...and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 1 John 2:16b (NLT)

b. Faith is our salvation assurance.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 (NASB)

3. Preservation

What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:8 (NIV)

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39 (NIV)

c. Faith is our peace provision.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into the grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2 (ESV)

How Do I Build My Faith?

1. Faith is built through obedience.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. Hebrews 11:8 (NLT)

2. Faith is shown in action.

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well" - but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:14-17 (NLT)

3. Faith is nurtured by believing.

And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. Genesis 15:6 (NLT)

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. Hebrews 11:13 (NLT)

4. Faith is strengthened through challenges.

At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. Genesis 12:10 (NIV)

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. Hebrews 11:11 (NLT)

5. Faith is powered by prayer.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray...the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:13,16 (ESV)

Be Thou My Vision (Surrendered To You)

Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart
Be nothing else to me save that You are
All my thoughts on You by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Your presence, my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and You my true word
I'll ever be with You, and You with me, Lord
You're my great Father, and always You'll be
Living forever abiding in me

I offer my eyes to You, to see through Your heart
Abandon my will for You, to be where You are
Giving my past to You, to make all things new
I offer my life, all that I am, surrendered to You

High King of heaven, the victory's won
You shine with glory, oh bright as the sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, oh Ruler of all

I offer my eyes to You, to see through Your heart
Abandon my will for You, to be where You are
Giving my past to You, to make all things new
I offer my life, all that I am, surrendered to You