

2. Faith (A Necessary Journey)

The topic of faith can be a difficult concept for those of us caught up in a sinful addictive lifestyle. We have come to a place in our lives where we know that we need to believe in someone or something, but we are unsure of who or what that is. Most of us had a measure of faith from time to time, but it never seemed sufficient for what we needed to accomplish. Maybe we have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ at some point along the way, but even then we fell short. Now we find ourselves at a loss as to who or what to believe.

This situation is made even more complicated by the fact that we tried so hard to sustain the illusion that everything was ok. Everything is not ok. The faith that is needed requires courage and the reality is that we are afraid. What if this doesn't work? After all, everything else we tried has failed.

We need to come to terms with the fact that faith is only as good as the object that it is placed in. Most likely those in positions of oversight in our lives have come up short in one way or another. This led us to trust only in ourselves, until even that proved futile. Now perhaps we think that we need blind faith in order to become victorious as Christians living in a hostile society. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The good news for us is that God Himself is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Even Abraham, who is considered by many as the father of our faith had to learn through many trials and failures. Jesus said that faith the size of a mustard seed would move mountains. One man that cried out to Jesus on behalf of his son actually said, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" You see, faith is a journey and Jesus is the trail guide.

2. Faith

Meditation Passages for the week - Hebrews 11:1-19, 12:1-4

Faith – **Believing** God for:

1. Our **Past** – His **Plan**
 - A. He created us to be in a **relationship** with Him. (**Ephesians 1:4-5**)
 - B. He has **allowed** us to fail. (Luke 15:11-14).
 - C. He is able to forgive **everything** that we have done. (Acts 26:17-18)
2. Our **Present** – His **Provision**
 - A. He brings us into a **relationship** with Himself through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:18).
 - B. He desires us to be fully **dependent** upon His Grace. (**2 Corinthians 9:8**).
 - C. He promises to **guide** us by His Spirit (**John 16:13**).
3. Our **Future** – His **Purpose**
 - A. He has a **plan** (**Jeremiah 29: 11-13**)
 - B. He will be **glorified** through our life (1 Peter 4:11).
 - C. He has made us **eternally secure** (**John 10:28**).

Faith – Believing in His **Word** (**John 17:17**)

Faith – Believing in His **Ordained Ministers** (**Hebrews 13:7, 17**)

Questions for Discussion

1. What must our faith in God concerning our past lead us to believe?
2. How can faith in God bring you into and sustain you in a relationship with Him?
3. What is God's purpose for us and how certain is it?
4. Why must we have faith in God's Word?
5. Who are God's ministers accountable to?