

September 9 | Sunday

Shaped by God's heart...full of faith

Read [1 John 5:1-21](#)



10 | Mon – A definition of faith | Read [Hebrews 11:1](#)

Faith is a common word used in our culture but it often means different things to different people at different times. In this verse, the writer of Hebrews gives a simple definition to help you understand what it is. Then the rest of the chapter recounts examples of people filled with faith and what happened as a result. Do you have personal stories of your own?

11 | Tue – Two prerequisites for coming to God | Read [Hebrews 11:6](#)

Authentic faith pleases God and this verse shows how uncomplicated it can be. God looks for anyone who holds to two simple truths listed here. Have you ever doubted yourself, felt you are not a person of great faith, or have been discouraged by not seeing lasting change in yourself? Confess it to the Lord. He will not be surprised or offended. He loves honesty! Then affirm these two beliefs. It is the first step in growing a heart full of faith.

12 | Wed – Self-confidence | Read [Matthew 5:3-5](#) and [1 John 5:4-5](#)

Contrary to popular opinion, God is not looking for people who have faith in themselves but for those who *don't*. People who believe in Jesus, believe he is who he claimed to be, believe that his necessary death provided for them what they could not do for themselves - *they* are the ones who find life-changing faith. This is faith that overcomes the world. What does it mean to *overcome the world*? And how does faith accomplish it? See Hebrews 11.

13 | Thu – It's personal | Read [1 John 5:13-15](#)

Faith is not a trophy to set on the mantel over the fireplace to be admired, nor a fix-it tool taken out of the closet for those times when life throws you a curveball. Real faith is rooted in an accurate view of who God is and how He feels about you. Faith reminds you that you can approach God with confidence that you'll be heard, and that God will answer your request as it lines up with His "better-than-you-can-possibly-imagine" plans for your life. How would you describe your faith?

14 | Fri – Alike, yet different | Read [Proverbs 20:6](#) and [Hebrews 11:11](#)

Consider the words *full of faith* and *faithful*. Marriage is a good illustration of both. You met and get to know someone, fall in love, grow to trust [have *faith* in] that person. Then at the wedding, you promise to stay *faithful* to each other for life. Your relationship will thrive in the context of daily walking out those promises. How do you think these words apply to God? Do you know him well enough to really trust him with your life? Do you have faith in his character and his promises to be faithful to you forever? If not yet, ask for help.

15 | Sat – An often-overlooked question | Read [Hebrews 11:32-40](#)

One of the biggest questions each person must consider is... can God be trusted? But the follow-up question is just as important... can God trust *you*? As one who has committed his/her life to a relationship with God provided through Jesus' tremendous sacrifice, you still have the power of choice. Will you be a person who is faithful? You can be, even though you may fail at times. What a significant way to live your life!