

Growing In Faith

2 Peter 1:5-8 (NLT)

In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I.

To have faith means to be fully persuaded, to have confidence, to trust and believe.

"Though the words are used interchangeably, there is a difference between believing and having faith", Dr. Fredrick KC Price.

Faith requires both belief and action.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV) says, "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."

II.

For some people, they will only believe if they see the results first.

John 20:25 (NIV) says, "So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

However, faith requires us to believe first, then see the results.

Hebrews 11:1 (TLB) says, "What is *faith*? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead."

III.

Though we may start out with little faith, the good news is our faith can grow.

Consider *Luke 12:28* (little faith) and *Matthew 8:10* (great faith)

Faith needs to be fed in order to grow.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) says, "So then *faith* comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

God also allows our faith to be tested to help us grow.

James 1:2-3 (NIV) says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."