

NOW FAITH

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 35

21 October 2022

God wants us to continually be looking to Him for His will and direction in our lives, step by step. This will require “*now faith*,” that is, faith for right now.

Hebrews 11:1, 6 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“Without faith it is impossible please him.” God wants our faith to be an ongoing, moment by moment, situation to situation looking to Him for direction and instruction. Yesterday’s faith won’t help you today. You need “*now faith*.”

Journalism rules: Ask “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”

The bible may not provide the answers (to your satisfaction) to those questions. That is where “*now faith*” will be most beneficial.

WHY?

Habakkuk 2:13, 1:2-4 The prophet Habakkuk is a man who asked God, “WHY?” God did not give him an answer. Asking God “Why” does not help satisfy your grievances. It only weakens you mentally and emotionally. Habakkuk still walked by faith not knowing “Why.”

Romans 9:20-21 Before we start questioning God about supposed injustices, we need to remember our place. God does not have to answer to man. God is not on trial.

- Instead of asking, “*Why is God doing this to me?*” Ask “*What did I do to God?*”
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WHERE?

Hebrews 11:8, 10, 13 Abraham had “now faith.” He never asked God “Where are you sending me?” He never asked, “Are we there yet?” or “How much farther?” In fact, he died without receiving the promise (vs 13).

WHAT?

John 13:6-7 When Jesus washed the disciple’s feet, He told Peter, “*You don’t know what I’m doing.*” This was often the case with the disciples.

- The disciples didn’t understand what Jesus was doing when He went to Jerusalem to die. (Mat 9:31-32, 16:21-23).
- We can’t expect to understand what God is doing and be able to fully grasp His actions. His ways are higher than man’s ways (Isa. 55:9).
- We need “now faith” because God leads us one step at a time with a “lamp unto our feet,” the word of God. (Psa. 119:105).

John 6:2-9 In the feeding of the great multitude, Jesus Himself knew what He would do (vs 6) but nobody else knew what He would do.

WHEN?

Matthew 24:3, 36 The disciples asked Jesus when He would be coming again (vs 3). Jesus said only the Father knows (vs 36).

- Any preacher or theologian who claims to know when the Second Coming will take place is a liar and one who doesn't believe the Bible.
 - Not knowing "when" causes us to trust God, relying on "now faith."
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HOW?

Luke 1:30-34 When the angel told Mary she would become pregnant without a man, she said, "**How shall this be?**" (vs 34).

- She didn't know how, but it didn't stop her from believing God. She didn't HAVE to know all the details because she trusted God.

John 3:3-9 When Jesus told Nicodemus "**Ye must be born again**" (vs 7), Nicodemus said, "**How can these things be?**" (vs 9) and "**How can a man be born when he is old?**" (vs 4).

- Even today we don't fully understand how a person becomes born again. The Lord wants us to exercise faith. Faith will supply the evidence (Heb 11:1).
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WHO?

2 Timothy 1:12 I know Whom I have believed! That is all I need to know. That's the only thing you'll ever know for sure.

- You may not know what Jesus is doing or when He's coming, but you know He doeth all things well (Mark 7:37, Genesis 1:31) even if you can't find out how or why He does it (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
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