

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1, NKJV

### LESSON STUDY INTRO

"This week let's explore the topic of faith: what to do with doubt and unbelief; what, according to Jesus, strong faith looks like; and what it means to have 'the faith of Jesus.'" Qtly, Sab, par 3

#### 1. Faith is absolute trust based on abundant evidence (Sab, Sun, Tue)

- Faith is rational (Heb. 11:1).

God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant. Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. Our faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration. sc 105

- Faith is a gift from God (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 12:3).
  - "We must first understand that faith is not a material thing; it's a human response prompted by the Holy Spirit. God is the gracious initiator, who, through the Holy Spirit, draws us to Himself when we allow Him to do so." Qtly, Tue, par 2
- Faith does not demand a sign because evidence is abundant.
  - Jesus sighed and refused to perform a placating sign for those who had ample evidence for faith already (see Mk. 8:11, 12).

These signs were not what the Jews needed. No mere external evidence could benefit them. What they needed was not intellectual enlightenment, but spiritual renovation. DA 406 (Qtly, Sun, par 5)

- The greatest evidence for future faith is the Lord's past leading (Deut. 4:7–10; Deut. 8:2, 3; Ex. 20:1, 2).
  - "Unlike the Israelites, we have 6,000 years of Bible history to draw from. Every generation wants a sign, and ours is no different. But signs are all around us. If you read Matthew 24, you will see how many things have been and are being fulfilled even NOW." Qtly, Sun, par 2, 3

## 2. Faith is only as strong as it is practiced (Mon, Tue, Wed)

- Faith is not a feeling, but trust demonstrated in action.

Many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith... Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. EW 72 (Qtly, Tue, par 4)

A man will act out all the faith he has. 1SM 93.1

- “Feelings should never dominate our religious experience or our relationship with God. It’s precisely when we think we’re distant from God that we need to exercise our faith and call on Him (as did the father in Mark 9:24).” Qtly, Tue. par 6
- God sows faith as a gift and waters it with evidence, but growth in faith requires our exercise of it.
  - All the examples of faith in Hebrews 11 were manifest in action.
    - This type of faith Jesus “saw” in the paralytic’s friends (Mk. 2:1-5) and with the Centurion with the ailing servant. (Lk. 7:1-10).

## 3. We can—and must—have the “faith of Jesus” (Thu)

- Jesus’ entire life, and particularly during the closing scenes, is the quintessential example of the faith God wants to develop in us (Mt. 26:36-42; Rev. 14:12).

The faith of Jesus.” It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel’s message? ... [F]aith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus. 3SM 172

- “Having the faith of Jesus means to have Jesus abiding in us, and thus His faith in our hearts, for Jesus is the true foundation of our faith.” Qtly, Thu, par 5

## CONCLUSION

“God gives each person a measure of faith as a foundation for a relationship with Him. As the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus modeled the power of faith for us all. When our faith is small, when we come with weeping and supplication and have a surrendered heart, God will work miracles in our lives. He will lead us in His straight ways so that we do not stumble any longer, and we will have peace. Jesus is the perfect example in all things, and having His faith will identify us as His people in the end times.” Qtly Fri, par 4