

June 26, 2014

# EXTREME FAITH

What is the deal  
with doubt  
&  
Faith?...

Name:

Take me home!

FAITH

What do you do when it's hard to have faith..

## FAITH VS DOUBT..

How do you strengthen your faith?....

Lets face it faith can be a simple thing or it can be a really hard thing to grasp and hang on to especially when life is hard. We all have times when we are on top of the world with our faith, during those times Jesus is the answer for everything! We are moving mountains left and right and we can't be shaken in our faith. But honestly these are usually just moments that come and go like a passing storm moving over the mountains. The other part of life is spent in the moments between and in these in between parts of life our faith is in us but it is sleeping. We don't call on Jesus for everything, we might go days without even calling out to Him. This is the battle of faith. Things come into our lives and they cause us to have a hard time living out and believing our faith. I get this way sometimes when the day has been long, and it seems like no one comes to me with any good news. Every where I go it seems like people need prayer and encouragement. Then I arrive at home ready to plop on the couch after putting the kids to bed, and another text comes in someone in need of prayer. My thoughts become selfish, thinking really, I just want to watch TV and forget that the world is so broken. At that moment my faith is

challenged and it is filled with doubt. Then as I get to my knees (it might be an hour or two later) but when I hit my knees my faith becomes alive and I pray, and pray... As I pray I am focused on this. Don't miss this because this is the battle of faith. Paul wrote this one liner and it is so powerful. In Philippians 4:13 Paul encourages us with this. **"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."** As I process this verse I realize that I do everything through Him, and in that I receive strength.

When has your faith been shaken and weak, what were you facing? What thing slammed into your life and crushed your spirit? Chances are at that moment you are not doing things through His strength. You are thinking that you and you alone have to face the problem. When that happens doubt creeps into your faith and you will lose. What we have to understand is this our faith is His faith and His faith is perfect and strong. We have to live out of His strength not our own. We have to run the race of faith with His strength through Him. Our faith leads us to Him, or dependence is Him and He will never fail us. Doubt leaves and we live our life in and out of our faith... and that is awesome!



Living Extreme means...

What do you feel comfortable doing? I will tell you the truth I feel comfortable doing what I know I can do. If I know that I will succeed then I feel comfortable doing it. But that is not Extreme living? Living Extreme means going beyond our comfort and doing things that we never ever thought we could do. We have to believe that we can do anything. When we seek to believe that we can do anything then we are living out of faith. When you live out of your faith you put your faith to the challenge.

So what makes you uncomfortable? What makes you nervous? When you try new things and live Extreme you increase your faith. But in the end you have to ask what is your faith in? If your faith is in yourself you may fall on your face. If your faith is in Jesus then you will depend on Him for strength to do anything. Living Extreme is living a life of dependence on Jesus. Faith to call on Him for strength is the Extreme life. When you pull your strength from Him, then you will find that you are stronger than your greatest fear! Now that is extreme!

Would you rather....?

...see in color or have night vision?

...have three wishes you can use for others or one wish you can keep for yourself?

...have a faith that depends on you or a faith that depends on someone else?

# CHARACTER

Faith and doubt which do you live out of the most? Is your faith the foundation for your character? Who you are is key in knowing who you will become. Your character will guide you. So you need to know what the foundation of your character is. When we root and build our character out of our faith, our character is built on the foundation of our relationship with Jesus. When doubt comes and it will your character will always lead you back to faith.

## Think About it...

### (how precious is our faith...)

Why would we ever doubt? I mean if we believe it then that should just be the end of the question. But it never is because if we believe then we will be attacked by doubt. We have to remember that we have an enemy who wants us to fail. he attacks us with doubt and seeks to cause us to question what we know to be true. Doubt is not a part of faith, they can not be in the same room. They oppose each other so anytime they are together they create confusion. We have to fight back and live out of faith. To do that we must turn to God's promises and see that He is on our side and wants us to grow our faith in Him past any and all doubt. Check out this promise from God, it is so awesome and so cool. Isaiah 41:13 says this. For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Wow I love that promise because it encourages me to understand how precious our faith is.

Our faith is so precious that our God will do anything and everything to help us fight the fight! He will take our hand and tell us not to fear, why because He will help us. No matter what life throws at us He will help us.

Our faith is so precious that our enemy the thief will do anything he can to steal it and give us doubt. People don't steal things that are not precious, they steal things that have value. Our faith has value. Just as people don't steal things that are't valuable, people don't protect things that are't valuable. So we have to realize that our faith is valuable and we have to protect it and keep our lives away from doubt. So how do you strengthen your faith and protect it from doubt? Check this out:

How to protect your faith from doubt:

Know God's Promises when you live out of God's promises you remind yourself that you are dependent upon God and you are not doing this alone.

God has a promise for every situation that you will face. Especially for the situations that challenge your faith.

God has many promises for us to live by, but more importantly when we depend on God we will not fail, we will defeat doubt. Nothing defeats doubt better than God's word.

Now you might be saying Chris that is awesome but is there an App for that? Well I am glad that you asked that question. There is an App for that it is called the Living Word App. the App logo looks like this.

It is a great App and it is only \$1.99 in the App store. I highly recommend that you get it and learn how to use it. God's promises are so incredible I seek to live my life out of God's promises everyday. When things crash into my life I turn to God's promises and I pull my strength from Him. When I pull my strength from Him I know that nothing is impossible for me.



Last thing If everything is possible through His strength then God would every tell us that we can't achieve something or that we won't be able to do something. So if you ever doubt and here a voice tell you it is impossible then that was not God that was the thief. The thief only lies, he never tells the truth, so if he says it is impossible, the you have to know the truth. The truth that you can do it through the one who gives you strength to do it so dream big and never doubt! He is with you!

## Finish this Sentence:

(Fill in the blank... How would you finish this sentence?)

**\*It's difficult at times to have faith because...**

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**\*Where do you get your strength from?**

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**\*Take a look at Philippians 4:13 have you ever lived out this verse? (what is the story?)**

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**\*Where do you need to apply this promise from God in your life?**

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