

July 9, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

**Getting
Stronger means
you have to
Go for it!**

Name:

Take me home!



STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH...

How do you get ripped?

Faith is so important, it is actually impossible to please God without faith. Don't believe me check this out. Hebrews 11:16 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. So what are you doing to increase and strengthen your faith? It is key that we do not allow our faith to reach a level and then just stop. Of course our enemy would have us think that we have arrived, and that there is nothing more for us to do with our faith. Believe it our not some of us think we have arrived but we have not. We all have ways that we need to grow in our faith! There is always more, until Christ returns or we go home there is work to be done!

As we go through this life things can get tough, disappointment can be around every corner and well sometimes it can just be downright difficult to believe in more. Check out this verse and dig in and see how God seeks to encourage us and what He promises to us as we keep seeking to grow our faith and our dependence upon Him. Isaiah 40:31 **but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.**

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Now that is what I call a promise. I mean cling to that and believe that He will carry us further than we ever thought that we could go. We have to run the race with His encouragement behind us always. It can be tough to put your faith as one of the most important things in your life especially when everyone around you puts other things in the top spot. But for us as followers of Jesus we have to make our faith the most important thing to us. It has to fill our number one spot. When we attempt to do this everything turns on us and it gets harder and harder to dig in. Trust me as you seek to dig in and run after God first in all that you do, your faith will increase and you will grow. During the process you will need to cling to God's promises to strengthen you and help you out along the way. I love to call on God's promises because in that I am increasing my faith and learning that God is so there for me and I fall more and more in Love with Him. The more that I fall in love with Him the more I grow my faith and it is an awesome cycle. Keep reading and we will show you some ways to strengthen your faith...

**LET YOUR
FAITH
BE BIGGER
THAN YOUR
FEARS**

Living Extreme means...

How many people do you know that don't fully live because they let their fears direct what they do or don't do. I am sure that you might know one or two, but you are in middle school. I know lots of older people who are really locked down by their fears. Who knows you might know a lot of people or you might not know anyone. But what about you what things do you avoid because you have a fear? Things that you know would be awesome to do but yet you have a fear that creeps in and blocks you for getting the job done. What about telling your friends that Jesus Loves them, got any fears around that? You know that it would be a good thing to do, and that it is the truth. But Fear blocks you. What you need to learn is that God is bigger than your fears, He is behind you and will support you and strengthen you. So how you gonna get it done? Strengthen your faith and then God will be bigger than your fears. Jump into God's promises and see that He has your back! Increase your faith!

Would you rather....?

...be hungry or thirsty?

...give your testimony in front of strangers or friends?

...pass out Christian literature at an airport or work at a greasy hot dog?

CHARACTER

DIG IN

How extreme are you do you change are do you stay the same? If we are growing in our faith then we are changing. Things that once would have caused us to have fear no longer cause us fear. Extreme people are growing and changing. Be extreme and continue to grow your faith, work it out and be stronger each and every day.

Think About it...

(Get on a plan and grow!)

We all want to have a greater faith next year, I mean no one really wants to stop growing, I mean what if you stopped growing physically when you were two years old. That would not be the best situation, if you could do something about it you would. Now apply that to your spiritual life. If you never knew more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit than the day that you said yes to Him. You would only know enough to know that you accepted Jesus but you would be missing some of the story.

So where do we go from here, how do you deepen and grow your faith to new levels? Here are a few suggestions that you can follow.

Suggestion no. 1:

Take your faith serious. Really! Understand what you believe and why you believe it and take it serious. Think about it and allow it to be apart of who your are. Sometimes I think we care more about how high our score is on the latest game that everyone is playing more than we care about how our relationship with God is going. We tend to feel more at peace if people like our Instagram photo than we gain peace from hanging out with God.

Suggestion no. 2:

Do something each day to help you grow and deepen your connection with God. Getting in shape and becoming stronger does not happen over night, it takes time and focus to put it into practice. You have to do something. Here are some things you can do. Pray, and pray in a conversation. Ask God questions and listen for the answer. Ask God to show you cool things and then look for those things around you. Read your Bible, look for verses that encourage you and cause you to feel more connected to God. Get a promise app or book and find promises that you can live off of and depend on. God loves it so much when we depend on and live out of His promises.

Suggestion no. 3:

Be involved in some type of study, have others help you grow in what you know about God and what you understand about your relationship with Him. Studies help us grow and learn more about the deep things of our faith. Here is a great study that each of you can attend. XGT Sundays which happens every Sunday morning at 8:30 am. We dig in and go after the big questions and we learn a ton as we go through it! Powerful stuff for you to learn from! You should jump in and dig into it on Sunday mornings!

Suggestion no. 4:

Take your faith and your relationship seriously and set goals. You need to have goals and you need to follow through with your goals and then you will grow and deepen your relationship with God. Goals you can set could be something like these. Pray 3 times a day. Read the Bible over a year. Journal once a day and write your thoughts down. Take a step up and out and live to grow stronger!

Isaiah 40:31

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Finish this Sentence:

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

***The one thing I could do this week to strengthen the spiritual foundation of my life would be...**

***What is your favorite bible verse?**

***What does Isaiah 40: 31 say to you?**

***How could you apply this verse to the unfinished sentence that you completed above?**
