

CARRIED BY FAITH

Faith is the very foundation of a believer's life.

But what does it take to have a faith that carries us through all the storms of life?

*10 In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, **he will restore, support, and strengthen you,** and he will place you on a **firm foundation.***

1 Peter 5:10 (NLT)

God desires to: *restore, support and strengthen us.*

TESTIMONY

Testimony; *“a formally written or spoken statement, something that can be used as proof or evidence of something”*

17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Romans 10:17 (NLT)

Testimonies that help strengthen our faith include the testimonies of others and our own testimony.

We need to be in community to experience the true potential of our faith. It is only in community that we can provide meaningful support, encouragement and accountability to one another.

1 Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. 2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. 3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NLT)

Hearing the testimony of spiritual mentors, pastors and leaders are a great source of strength and encouragement to us. But what can be even more effective is to recount our own testimony of what God has already done in our lives.

12 Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given,

1 Chronicles 16:12 (NLT)

We can often get so consumed with the problem in front of us that we forget that God has **already** carried us through and

provided for us through issues just like the one we may be going through right now.

11 But then I recall all you have done, O LORD; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.

Psalm 77:11 (NLT)

STUDY

***Study;** “the devotion of time and attention to gaining knowledge and understanding on a certain subject”*

105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105 (NLT)

The height at which our faith reaches will only ever be determined by the depths that we go in God’s word.

15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

We cannot let the truths of scripture be revealed to us through 15 second sound bytes on social media. True revelation of scripture is only found when YOU get into the scriptures yourself.

2 It is God's privilege to conceal things and the king's privilege to discover them.

Proverbs 25:2 (NLT)

Prayer and meditation are just as important when it comes to the topic of study.

*8 **Study this Book** of Instruction continually. **Meditate on it** day and night so you will be sure to **obey** everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.*

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

If you do not study, you cannot meditate. If you have nothing to meditate on, you do not know what to obey.

Study allows the roots of our faith to go deep and wide.

PRACTICE

The practice of worship and the practice of fellowship play a key role in growing and strengthening our faith.

Worship: Worshiping through speech and/or song is another form of meditation. Worship is where we choose to step into a space of active reverence to God.

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3

He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. 6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.
Psalm 23:1-6 (NLT)

Fellowship: Fellowship is both an outlet for us to serve and be generous to one another, as well as a source where we can draw strength, support and encouragement.

11 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

In fellowship, our faith can grow because we see the victorious result of faith in the lives of those around us, even before we see those results in our own life.

*25 And let us **not neglect our meeting together**, as some people do, but **encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

When we practice fellowship with one another, it is an opportunity to serve one another with our time, talents and treasures.

If you want to experience the potential of your faith, you need to serve others.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Ephesians 2:8 (NASB)

For us to have the kind of faith to withstand every stage of life, we need to:

- *Intentionally listen to the testimony of others and recite our own.*
- *Intentionally study and meditate on His word.*
- *Intentionally practice worship and fellowship with one another.*