



Life Principles Notes™

Living the Extraordinary Life

Part 4: The Life of Faith

Summary:

Have you settled for less than what God has planned for your life?

Perhaps you have discovered that each day offers too little joy. That's not God's will for your life. He wants the very best for you. The question is, How willing are you to put aside the "settled for" life? How willing are you to reach beyond the ordinary into the extraordinary?

Scripture is filled with accounts of people like

you and me who did that very thing. Touched by the hand of Almighty God, they lived beyond the world's mediocre standards. What was their secret? Hebrews 11 holds the thrilling answer. This passage lays before us a number of extraordinary lives. It demonstrates that the common denominator for extraordinary people is extraordinary faith.

My friend, the simple truth is that unless you learn to live by faith, something will always be missing from your life. Let's discover the biblical keys to the life of faith.

Scriptural Principles:

1 The definition of faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). This is the first of two important principles contained in this passage. Faith is simply our confidence that the Lord will do what He promised every single time. Each of the individuals listed in this chapter maintained an absolute assurance in God. Every one of them had an unshakable conviction about things that they could not see but that were guaranteed by His promises. Here is the awesome truth: an ordinary believer like you or me can have an extraordinary faith and do extraordinary things that glorify the name of God simply because we have a solid assurance of the God who keeps His promises.

2 The admonition of faith. This amazing passage from Hebrews offers a second powerful principle. It tells us that "without faith, it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6). The reason may not seem obvious at first, but it is true because if you doubt God—if you disbelieve His perfect and eternal Word—then, my friend, you are implying that He is a liar. People today may go to church, say their prayers, and read their Bibles without ever truly living by faith. They have no absolute assurance, no unshakable conviction that God will do what He said He would do. They want proof. But those who live by faith need no further evidence. They accept His Word with quiet assurance, then watch Him work.

3 When we walk by faith, the will of God will be our guide. Hebrews 11 portrays the life of faith, proven through the example of those who exercised it. For instance, there is Noah, whose life was a picture of godly obedience. He was told to build an ark—basically a boat on dry land. He had only the Word and the will of God to lean upon. But Noah was faithful, and in time, his family was spared. You and I can live like that. From Scripture, we already know many things that are the will of God, such as prayer, good works, and sharing our faith. If we simply live like Noah, keeping our eyes on the Lord's will, we can experience that extraordinary life we've always wanted to have.

4 When we walk by faith, the promises of God will be our assurance. Abraham had the divine promise that he would become the father of a great nation. Though it took many years for God to fulfill that promise, the patriarch did not waver. He had no guarantees from doctors; neither would anyone vouch for the physical condition of his wife. Abraham needed no assurance but God's promise. Most people today trust in influence, opinions, feelings, and any other worldly source. This is how they end up settling for less in life, less from God. But His inspired Word is filled with promises you can claim each day. The Lord will fulfill every one of them in your life, and they provide all the assurance you need.

5 When we walk by faith, the presence of God will be our comfort. Moses was given an assignment for which he felt completely inadequate. God told him to speak to the Pharaoh of Egypt on behalf of the Hebrew people, who were held in slavery. The task was bold and dangerous, but Moses could lean upon the presence of God Himself. The Lord gave His promise: "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12). He gives us the very same promise, for He has told us that He would go with us every step of every day. Do you struggle with fear? Do you ever feel alone? If you live the life of faith, you can find comfort in the constant presence of God, who will never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

6 When we walk by faith, the Word of God will be our victory. Joshua had an exciting life. He led the Israelites into their homeland after 40 years of wandering. The challenge had seemed insurmountable. Joshua was instructed to march around the walls of the fortress city named Jericho. God also told the leader to be strong and courageous. Joshua was obedient because he took God at His word—and the walls crumbled before his eyes. Do miracles like that happen today? Extraordinary things happen when extraordinary faith is called upon. The Lord wants every one of us to trust Him for such victories. We can do so only if we are listening for His voice. When He speaks, are you ready to obey without question?

7 When we walk by faith, the power of God will be our strength. David is another character whose faith was proven on the battlefield. As a young man, he was bold enough to stand before the giant who terrorized the entire army of Israel. He ignored the power of the enemy because he trusted in the power of the Provider. He said, "The battle is the LORD'S" (1 Samuel 17:47). Do you believe that proclamation? Could you stand before the giants in your life, shaking your fist, as David did, and saying that God has already declared victory? God has not changed. The more you experience His supernatural power, the more awesome your faith will become.

8 When we walk by faith, the approval of God will be our motivation. Finally, there are those countless people—the "roll call of faith"—who have done wonderful things simply for the approval of God, which is for the believer both a motivation and a reward. All of the saints mentioned in Hebrews 11 died without seeing the culmination of God's promise: His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Yet through their faith, they earned the ultimate reward of God's acceptance. Because Christ came into the world, you can approach God's throne in purity and forgiveness. Don't you want to stand beside David, Noah, Moses, and all the rest, adding your name to the great list of those who lived the life of faith?

Conclusion:

MMy friend, the Lord never promised that this life of faith would be easy. If you intend to walk in the Spirit, you will be tested—and not once, but many times—as you grow wiser and more complete. There will be criticism. There will ultimately be persecution.

When you are tempted to doubt, think about the great names from the book of Hebrews—names of men and women who trusted God and lived in faith, without ever knowing the name of

the Son of God. You and I have an extraordinary advantage. If you have accepted Him into your heart, He lives within you. He will give you His presence, His power, His assurance, and every other thing you need.

Faith is a simple thing, but it is also profound. It unlocks the awesome power and joy of the extraordinary life—which is truly the life worth living. ✝

Contact us:
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