

Ipswich International Church



Daily Devotion

Monday, 10 – Sun, 23 February 2025

Faith:

A Gift to Receive | A Fruit to Grow | A Calling to Fulfil

February 2025							
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28		

The Multi Aspects of Faith

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

1 Corinthians 12, BSB

Faith in the Bible is active and has many layers. It is both a gift from God and something that grows in a Believer's life.

- **Saving Faith** is where it begins—it's how we start a relationship with God.
- **Measure of Faith** is what God gives us to help us live out our purpose and serve others.
- **Gift of Faith** is a special strength given for certain moments or tasks.
- **Faith as a Fruit of the Spirit** is about growing a strong and trusting character as we follow God.

It will undoubtedly take time to explore each of these layers of faith in depth. Our own minister, David Howe, begins this journey for us this week by delving into the definition of faith and its foundational elements in our devotional series. This exploration will help us better understand what faith truly means and how its basic components shape our relationship with God and our daily walk with Him. It's an opportunity to reflect, learn, and grow as we unpack the richness of faith together.

Remember **we may not have it all together, but together we have it all!**

Adewale Adefuye

Ipswich, 8 February 2025

Faith: Introduction

Faith is often seen as something that depends on the believer. We may think we need to have enough faith for God to act or for our hopes to become reality. This idea is sometimes based on verses like Matthew 17:20 or Luke 17:6, where Jesus compares faith to a mustard seed. The problem with focusing on how much faith we have is that it makes *us* the source of faith.

As we study the Bible this week, we will see that faith does not come from us but from the Holy Spirit working within us. Faith is a gift from God, not something we create ourselves. It is built on God's word—both in Scripture and through the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Faith is a journey. As we grow in our relationship with God, we also grow in faith. Just like a muscle, faith becomes stronger when it is stretched. The Holy Spirit helps us trust in God and believe that the unseen spiritual world is real and active in our lives.

Faith is at the heart of Christianity. It is more than just believing—it leads to action. This week, as you read the Bible, let it challenge and strengthen your understanding of faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you deeper insight into what faith truly means.

Shalom

David Howe

Ipswich, 7 February 2025

Faith is...



Hebrews 11:1-4, BSB

¹ Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see. ² This is why the ancients were commended. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous when God gave approval to his gifts. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.



The writer of Hebrews captures the heart of faith for every believer. Faith is the deep conviction of things we cannot see, showing that it is not something understood through human reasoning but through the Spirit. It is the trust and hope we have in God that allows us to believe that what seems impossible can become reality.

Hebrews 11 gives many examples of people who lived by faith, even in the most difficult situations. They held onto their trust in God, no matter what. Verse 39 says that some “did not receive what was promised,” showing that their faith was not just about getting what they hoped for—it was a deep conviction that went beyond the outcome.



(1) Where do you find assurance? What or who gives you hope? (2) How can we recognise a strong faith in our own lives? What signs show this? (3) Which story of faith in Hebrews 11 speaks to you the most, and why? Consider the examples of those who came before us. (4) Can you share a personal experience where something unseen became a reality?



1. Father, we thank You that our assurance and hope are found in You. 2. Father, we are grateful that faith is not limited to what we see but is rooted in what You are doing in the spiritual. Deepen our conviction and understanding of Your work. 3. Father, help us learn from those who walked in faith before us. May we stand on the shoulders of giants, strengthened by the gift of Your Spirit. 4. Father, open doors for our faith to grow. Help us recognise how far You have brought us and how much our faith has deepened in You.

The Founder and Perfecter of our Faith



Hebrews 12:1-2



The phrase in verse 2, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith," is translated differently across Bible versions:

- NKJV – "the author and finisher of our faith"
- NLT – "the champion who initiates and perfects our faith"
- NIV – "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith"

In Greek, the word *archēgos* means chief leader, one who takes the lead and sets an example for others, while *teleiōtēs* refers to perfection, moral and spiritual completeness.

This shows that faith is not something we create or sustain on our own. Instead, Jesus leads us in faith, both through His example in Scripture and by His living word (*rhema*). He speaks into our situations, giving us a foundation to stand on. But He doesn't just initiate our faith—He completes it. His victory and position in heaven make it possible for God's will to be established on earth.

The writer of Hebrews also reminds us that faith is not meant to be lived in isolation. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, meaning we are part of a greater faith community. We do not walk this journey alone but alongside others who share in faith.



- 1) Can you recall a time when Jesus spoke a word into your life that became the foundation of your faith? 2) In what ways do you think Jesus perfects and strengthens our faith? 3)

What promise or word from God are you holding onto right now? Do you need to remind yourself of it?



a) Jesus, we thank You for being the author and perfecter of our faith. You go before us, setting the example and leading us in faith.

b) Help us to become more sensitive to Your Spirit, to recognise the word or foundation You are speaking into our situations.

c) Lord, may we, like You, find joy in seeing beyond the present, trusting in the greater purpose ahead.

They Could Not Believe



John 12:36b-43



In John's account, we see that even though Jesus performed many miracles and signs, there was still unbelief among those who witnessed them. This fulfils the prophecy in Isaiah 6:8-13, where people were unable to believe because of the hardness of their hearts and their inability to recognise what was right in front of them. This can challenge us in our own faith, as well as in our longing to see others come to know the Lord. However, it also reminds us that faith comes through revelation and by allowing the Holy Spirit to open our hearts.

The passage also shows that one obstacle to faith is what—or whom—we seek to glorify. Do we desire recognition from others more than the glory that comes from God? Do we prioritise approval and comfort over obedience, even if obedience leads to experiencing the fullness of God's glory in our lives?

For example, imagine seeking direction in your work. What if the Lord called you to step down from your job to take a lower-paid role in obedience to Him? This could be a difficult decision, but perhaps He has something greater planned than we can see or understand. How would your heart respond? Would you be willing to follow His leading, or would you try to find a way around it?



- 1) Have you ever encountered people who were resistant to the gospel? How did you respond in those moments?
- 2) Have you ever struggled to have faith for something because it seemed unusual to others or made you feel uncomfortable?
- 3) Whose glory are you seeking? Can you honestly recognise whether you are seeking God's glory or the approval of others?



- a) Father, thank You that our hearts have turned to You, allowing us to recognise Your glory and the power of the gospel at work in our lives.
- b) Father, reveal to me any hardness in my heart and show me where my struggles in faith may stem from the wrong motives or attitudes.
- c) Holy Spirit, help me to see when I am seeking my own glory instead of the Father's. Search my heart and bring this to light.

Faithful in What We Have



Genesis 4:2-7



The story of Cain and Abel is highlighted in our passage from Hebrews at the beginning of the week. As we reflect on this, understanding the context is crucial to grasping how it relates to faith. Cain and Abel were the first sons of Adam and Eve, each with their own roles, but what they did with what they had affected God's acceptance of their sacrifice. Abel offered the firstborn of his flock, while Cain gave fruit from the ground. This is significant because the ground was cursed by God after the fall (Genesis 3:17-19). In this, we see that Abel gave the best of what he had, whereas Cain, despite toiling, did not offer the best. He was also warned to watch his heart, to avoid bitterness or anger, and to master these emotions to prevent falling into sin.

There are times when we might compare God's response to others' faith or feel that God favours others more than us. The challenge is not to let our faith be diverted or to focus on what others have, but rather to remain faithful in what the Father has entrusted to us. It's also about recognising and appreciating what He has already given us.



1) How grateful are you for what the Father has given you? Are you giving Him the best of what you have?

2) Are there times when you see God's favour on others and feel the need to check your own heart?

3) How often do you celebrate with others for what God has done? Is there a part of you that asks, "Why not me, Lord?"



a) Father, we thank You for all that You have provided in our lives. We are grateful that we can use these blessings to serve You and others. b) Father, I ask for Your forgiveness for the times when my faith has faltered, especially when I have seen Your favour on others. c) Father, may we grow in championing and celebrating the faith and provision of others, even when we may not yet see it manifest in our own lives.

Faith that Costs



Genesis 22



In this account of Abraham's faith, we see how trusting in the Father and having faith in Him can stretch us beyond what we can imagine. To fully grasp the depth of this story, it is recommended to read all of Genesis 22.

Imagine the level of faith required when the son, through whom God had promised blessings, was now to be sacrificed to God. If we were in Abraham's position, we might be tempted to question whether we are truly hearing from God or even reject the idea, doubting that it could be His voice. Yet, in verse 3, we see that Abraham follows God's instructions. Even when questioned, Abraham confidently says that God will provide the offering—and He does, through the provision of the ram. This teaches us that there will be times when faith leads us on journeys that require us to be ready to give everything to God. In these moments, we must trust His voice and His guidance, being led by the Spirit. As God told Abraham, it was because of his obedience to His voice that Abraham was blessed.

Faith is a gift that can lead us on incredible adventures with God, but it can also come at a great cost. The challenge is this: How willing is our heart to follow Him? What are we prepared to sacrifice?



1) What do you think Abraham felt and thought as he led Isaac to the land of Moriah? 2) What do you think the two young men with them may have thought? 3) Have you experienced times when your faith was stretched at a great cost? 4) When have you seen God provide in situations where the provision seemed impossible? 5) How willing are you to obey the Father's voice? Do you hold on to what you have tightly, or are you open to God using it for His glory?



a) Father, thank You that we can hear Your voice and recognise Your guidance. b) Give us the confidence and faith to trust You in every situation. May we discern Your voice, especially when we are filled with doubt. c) Father, increase our opportunities to obey You. Help us recognise how we have grown in following Your will.

“I will show you my faith by my works”



James 2:15 – 22



James teaches us the practical side of faith. We can receive a word and have a foundation on which to build our faith, allowing us to see what the Father and the Spirit are doing.

However, if our actions do not align with this, how can we truly be walking in faith? His example of a brother or sister in poor clothing highlights that sometimes words are not enough—action is also required. In this case, it could be that God has placed us in that person’s life to be the answer to their prayers.

Another example might be when we are praying for healing but ignore the advice given by medical professionals. It’s possible that God is using them to speak wisdom into our health situation, and ignoring their guidance could lead to greater issues.

As James says, “I will show you my faith by my works”—it’s about living out our faith in practical ways. We may believe that we have a God who provides and is generous to us, but if we clutch every penny tightly, are we truly believing that He will continue to provide and be generous, especially if we aren’t extending that generosity to others?



1) How often do you allow your faith to influence your actions?

Do you see them as going hand in hand or as being in opposition? 2) **What does it mean for works to be the**

completion of our faith? 3) When have you seen your faith strengthened by someone else’s faith? 4) **How important is it for you to witness the outworking of faith in the lives of others?**

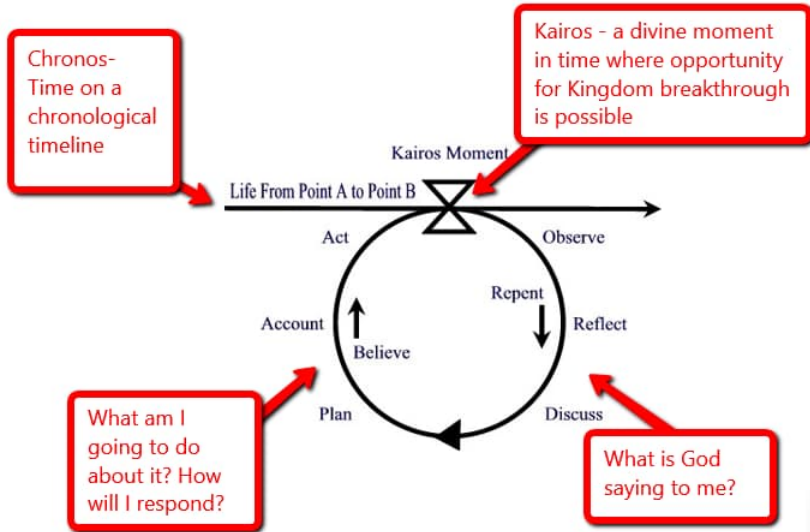


a) Father, thank You that our faith is not something to be hidden, but something to be seen by You and others.

b) Father, thank You for the confidence to live out our faith, where our works and faith are intertwined.

c) Father, show me where I can encourage the faith of others.

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____

A New Rhythm of Fasting: Mark your Calendar

In 2025, we are embracing a more consistent rhythm of fasting, both individually and as a community. We started the year with a focused seven-day fast in January and will continue with three days of fasting each month. This intentional practice is designed to help us seek God’s guidance regularly and cultivate a stronger spiritual foundation throughout the year.

As we look ahead, please take note and prepare for the designated fasting days in March and April. Let’s approach these times with prayerful anticipation, trusting God to move powerfully in our lives and our community.

Wed, 5 – Fri, 7 March 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						

Wed, 2 – Fri, 4 April 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
14	31	1	2	3	4	5	2
15	6	4	5	6	7	8	9
16	13	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	20	18	19	20	21	22	23
18	27	28	29	30			

The Gift of Faith

...to another faith by the same spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:9

The gift of faith is a supernatural impartation of God's own faith into a believer's heart for a specific moment or situation. Just as a word of wisdom is a portion of God's infinite wisdom given to a believer to navigate a particular circumstance, and a word of knowledge is a revelation of God's omniscient understanding for a specific time and need, the gift of faith is a direct infusion of God's unwavering, limitless faith into an individual. This is not the general saving faith that all Believers possess, nor is it the faith that grows through hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Rather, it is a sudden, supernatural certainty that God will act, a bold confidence beyond human reasoning, and an unshakable assurance in God's power and promises.

It is distinguished from the other forms of faith by the fact that it is a sovereign, supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through the believer. The two key words are sovereign and supernatural.

This gift enables believers to trust God in extraordinary ways, even when circumstances seem impossible. It fuels miracles, empowers bold declarations, and allows individuals to stand firm in the face of overwhelming odds. When God imparts this faith, doubt is silenced, fear is cast aside, and the believer operates in complete trust, knowing that God's will shall be accomplished.

The gift of faith is essential in moments when human reasoning and natural faith fall short.

Adewale Adefuye

Ipswich, 16 February 2025

Operating in God's Faith: Speaking and Seeing Results



Mark 11:12-14, 20-23



Jesus illustrates the power of faith through the incident of cursing a fig tree, which subsequently withers by the following day. In response to Peter's remark, Jesus stated, "Have faith in God." If it were translated literally from Greek, it would read, "Have God's faith." God's kind of faith has the potential to move mountains. The gift of faith functions in such a manner that God endows believers with His own faith, allowing them to speak and act with extraordinary confidence.



1) Is God's faith available to all Believers? 2) What is the nature of this kind of faith? 3) How is different from the faith that grows by hearing God's word? 4) Why did Jesus curse the fig tree, and what spiritual lesson was He teaching His disciples? 5) What does Jesus mean by saying, "Have faith in God"? How does this relate to the gift of faith? 6) What role does doubt play in limiting the power of faith? (7) How can believers position themselves to receive and operate in the gift of faith?



We are studying and meditating on the gift of faith to recognise it when we see or experience it. Is this a gift we would like to receive? There's a saying that one should think twice before accepting an elephant as a gift due to the cost of feeding and maintenance. Similarly, does this gift come with any responsibilities or accountability?

The Gift of Faith: Lessons from Joshua



Joshua 10:1-15



We are drawn into a moment of extraordinary faith and divine power. As Joshua led the Israelites in battle against a coalition of enemies, he faced not only the threat of overwhelming odds but also the limitation of time. In a bold act of faith, Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, and God answered in a miraculous way, prolonging the day until victory was secured. This moment is more than a historical event—it is a testament to the gift of faith. Joshua’s audacious command was not rooted in arrogance but in a deep trust in God’s promises and power. It reminds us that faith is a gift that enables us to believe in the impossible and to act with courage, even when circumstances seem insurmountable. As we reflect on this passage, let us consider how God is calling us to exercise bold faith in our own lives, trusting that He is with us, fighting our battles, and working wonders beyond our understanding.



1) What does Joshua’s bold command reveal about his faith in God’s power? (2) How does this event demonstrate the gift of faith rather than general faith? (3) How does Joshua’s partnership with God in this miracle apply to Believers today? (4) What role did Joshua’s obedience and alignment with God’s will play in this supernatural event?



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Faith That Leaps: A Testimony of God's Power



Acts 3:1-16



In today's text, we encounter a powerful moment of transformation—a man born lame, who had spent his life begging at the temple gate, is healed in the name of Jesus Christ. This miracle, performed through Peter and John, is not just a story of physical healing but a profound demonstration of the gift of faith. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, saw beyond the man's immediate need and offered him something far greater: faith in the power of Jesus' name. Peter's bold declaration, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you," reveals that the greatest gift we can offer is faith in Christ. This passage challenges us to see beyond our limitations and to believe in the transformative power of Jesus. As we reflect on this story, let us ask ourselves: How is God calling us to exercise and share the gift of faith, bringing hope and healing to a broken world?



1) What role did Peter's faith play in the healing of the lame man? 2. How does the gift of faith empower believers to step out in boldness? 3. What is the significance of Peter saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth"? 4. How does the healing of the lame man demonstrate the power of God's name? 5. What can we learn from the response of the crowd witnessing the miracle?



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Withholding Rain by Faith



1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17-18



Faith is trusting that God will do what He says. But the gift of faith is something even greater—it is a special kind of trust that allows a person to believe for the impossible. Elijah stood before King Ahab and boldly declared that there would be no rain **unless he said so**. This was not just confidence; it was God-given faith. The New Testament describes Elijah as just like us—an ordinary person. Yet, when he prayed, the rain stopped for three and a half years. When he prayed again, the rain returned. This was not because Elijah had any special power of his own, but because he had complete trust in God's power and promises.

Elijah's story teaches us that faith is not just about believing—it is about acting boldly on God's word. What would happen if we prayed and lived with the same confidence? What if we trusted God completely, even in difficult times?



1) Does Elijah's story demonstrate a connection between the gift of faith and prayer? 2) **How did Elijah's faith affect the natural world, and what does this teach us about the role of faith in prayer?** 3) Why does James highlight Elijah's humanity in connection with his powerful prayers? 4) **What does Elijah's confidence in God's will teach us about bold declarations in prayer?**



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God's Faith: Lessons from George Müller's Life



... to another faith by the same Spirit... 1 Corinthians 12:9



"The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat," the housemother of the orphanage informed George Müller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. "Mr. Müller," he said, "last night I could not sleep. Somehow, I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in."

Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children.¹



1) What do we learn from George Müller's unwavering faith about trusting in God's provision, even when circumstances seem impossible? (2) How did George Müller's actions—asking the housemother to have the children sit and wait—demonstrate his complete reliance on God? (3) How does this story challenge our own beliefs about God's ability to provide for our needs in unexpected ways?



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¹ <https://www.georgemuller.org/devotional/a-famous-story-about-mullers-faith>

God's Faith: Lessons from Howard Carter's Life



And Jesus, answering, saith to them, "Have the faith of God.
Mark 11:22, Worrell New Testament



Reverend Howard Carter once purchased a church in London by faith. He simply committed himself to do it but had no funds. He was president of Hampstead Bible School and the faculty and students were greatly concerned because he had made the commitment but possessed no funds to fulfil it. The time came for the final payment to be made and he did not have one cent. The students and teachers were greatly troubled and spent much time in prayer, but Brother Carter said, "God has assured me that I will have this full payment on schedule." The night before the final day of closure on the property, the teachers and the students were worried and upset. They thought that the next day would be a day of great embarrassment and that they would lose the church. Reverend Carter, on the other hand, was anything but ill at ease. He said, "We do not need money until tomorrow morning."

The last mail delivery in London was at 9:00 p.m. As Reverend Carter picked up the mail from the box at the Hampstead Bible School, there was a large brown envelope. When he opened it, there--in cash--was the total amount necessary to pay off the church. At breakfast the following morning he revealed the good news to the great relief of those who were concerned. There was neither name nor address of the donor. ²



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² page 58, Lester Sumrall's Gifts of the Holy Spirit Study Guide.



October 2024 Vision

For months, God has been revealing things to me during worship, though I didn't fully understand them until Sunday morning when everything came together with clarity for Ipswich International Church.

I often sense a mighty Angel of the Lord over the platform, leading an army of smaller angels who move among the congregation, delivering God's instructions. The angel's tasks include comforting broken hearts and grief, and grounding people to the Holy Spirit's healing. Next, releasing provision, where those in need receive from God's abundance, often through others in the congregation. Then, sharing Truth and securing us firmly in Jesus to ensure we remain steady and secure. Lastly, I saw a covering of protection, like the angel's garments stretched over the people, symbolising peace and sanctification.

God is preparing Ipswich International Church for what is to come—not just superficially but in deep wholeness. This preparation is corporate, requiring unity. **“What you have now is one tenth of what I have planned for you to take hold of,”** he says. He is expanding His people's influence in Ipswich and beyond, calling them to replant stakes in new ground.

The church is being established as an epicentre of provision, both physical and spiritual, to release life. God's people must be whole to display His glory in the places He is calling them to.

A member of the Church submitted this vision via email, and it has been condensed for clarity and brevity. We have prayed about it and looked at how God has been leading us over the past few years. We believe it is truly from Him. Now, we share it clearly for everyone. Each of us has a place in what God is saying. Let's seek Him together, trust His plan, and walk forward with faith and unity.