

REACHING  
**NEW LEVELS**

OF FAITH

CURTIS HARTSHORN, MBS

**STUDENT WORKBOOK**

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## Table of Contents

<b>1. Why Should I Work on My Faith?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. What is Faith?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. What Are the Different Levels of Faith?</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4. How Do I Graduate from Imitating Faith?</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5. How Do I Recognize Affiliating Faith?</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>6. How Do I Acquire Searching Faith?</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7. The Struggles of Searching Faith</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8. How Did Peter Search Out His Faith?</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>9. Job and the Practical Struggle</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>10. How Do I Start Solidifying My Faith?</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>11. Up-Again, Down-Again Faith</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>12. What's So Great about Abraham?</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>13. Can I Reach Mature Faith?</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>14. How Do I Reach Mature Faith?</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>15. How Does Satan Attack our Faith?</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>16. Do I Trust God?</b>	<b>62</b>

# Reaching New Levels of Faith

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## **Curtis Hartshorn**

Strong faith. What difference would rock solid faith make in your life? Would you be willing to put some effort into developing stronger faith? This course will teach you what strong faith is and how to reach it using the Bible as your guide. You will learn not only how to enrich your faith but also how to develop stronger faith in others.



**[bibletalk.tv/reaching-new-levels-of-faith](https://bibletalk.tv/reaching-new-levels-of-faith)**

# 1. Why Should I Work on My Faith?

This first lesson explores six good reasons why you should want to work on having stronger faith.

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ wants me to grow.

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- Matthew 17:14-20

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- Matthew 13:31-32

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2. We either move \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Hebrews 5:11-14

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3. Without \_\_\_\_\_ growth we won't have numerical growth in our congregations.

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- Ephesians 4:14-16

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**4. If God does not have you, \_\_\_\_\_ does.**

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- 1 Peter 5:6-8

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- 1 John 3:7-10

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- Matthew 12:30

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**5. Without \_\_\_\_\_ we can't please God.**

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- Hebrews 11:6

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**6. Faith development fosters healthy and harmonious \_\_\_\_\_ in the family of God.**

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- 2 Timothy 2:24-26

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- Others are struggling too. \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. What is Faith?

In this lesson we'll examine how the Bible defines faith.

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### Faith Definitions

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The \_\_\_\_\_ that something stated is the truth.

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\_\_\_\_\_ which causes you to do what you do.

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**To put your full \_\_\_\_\_ down upon a cause.**

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Grass Woven Suspension Bridge

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Charles Blondin – Tightrope Walker

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**The assent of the \_\_\_\_\_ to a conviction of biblical truth.**

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\_\_\_\_\_ to rely on Christ in making moral choices.

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Trust Fall \_\_\_\_\_

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**Hebrews 11:1**

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The **assurance** of things hoped for.

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Sure that God can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

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- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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- Philippians 1:3-6

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Sure that I will be in \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16, 24-26

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The **conviction** of things not seen.

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Convicted there is a \_\_\_\_\_, there is a \_\_\_\_\_,  
there is a \_\_\_\_\_.

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### 3. What Are the Different Levels of Faith?

This study explains the five basic stages we go through on our faith journey. Five levels of faith with biblical examples for each.

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#### Different Levels of Faith

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**1. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith**

"I don't understand; I just do what you do."

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**2. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith**

"I understand, but I only believe because others do."

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**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith**

"I am checking this out for myself."

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith

"Let me piece this all together."

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5. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith

"Nothing will stop me from trusting in God."

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**Biblical Examples**

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1. Acts 8:9-20

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\_\_\_\_\_ faith was based on what others were doing;  
he didn't really understand.

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2. John 4:25-42

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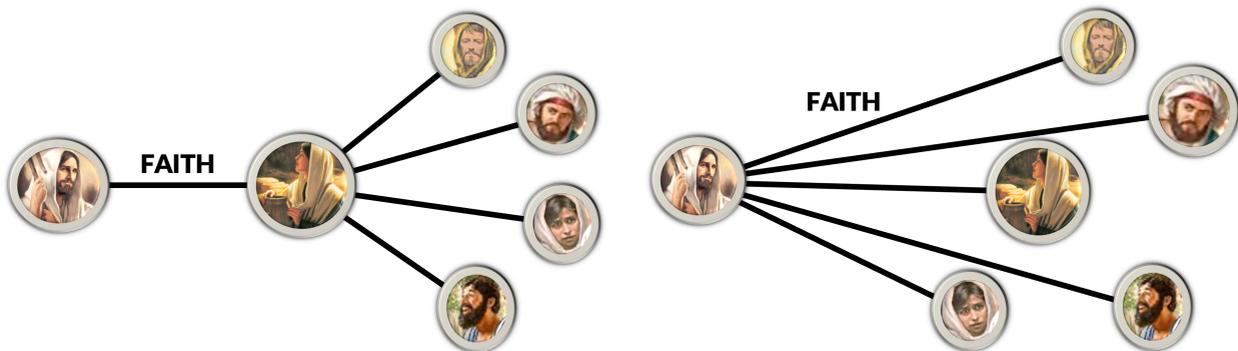
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The \_\_\_\_\_ had faith based on their affiliation with the Samaritan woman.

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\_\_\_\_\_ faith is how most of us come to Christ,  
but it's not good to stay there. \_\_\_\_\_

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If you \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_ because others \_\_\_\_\_ it,  
you have Affiliating Faith.

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3. Acts 17:10-12

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The \_\_\_\_\_ searched out their own faith.

They examined even the teachings of Paul and Silas to be certain they were true.

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4. 2 Timothy 1:5-7

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\_\_\_\_\_ did not quite have mature faith.

He still needed to solidify the faith he had.

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5. Acts 27:21-25

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\_\_\_\_\_ developed his faith to the point where nothing could dissuade him from following God.

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## 4. How Do I Graduate from Imitating Faith?

This class shows how to guide a child or an adult with very little understanding, to a stronger walk with the Lord.

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Review the 5 Levels of Faith

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- Deuteronomy 11:18-21

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**Watch for opportunities to teach them moral values.**

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**Parenting is instilling Christian \_\_\_\_\_ in our children rather than merely controlling their personal conduct.**

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- Proverbs 3:1-6

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Teach little ones to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the worship service instead of spectators.

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Practice \_\_\_\_\_ at home.

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**Focus on learning rather than teaching.**

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Your child's spiritual growth depends on what they hear not what you say.

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- Matthew 13:10-13

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**Nurture your child's natural hunger for learning God's Word.**

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**If you place the Word of God before your child, they will \_\_\_\_\_ on its wisdom.**

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- Ecclesiastes 3:11

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**Read the \_\_\_\_\_ together with your children.**

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**When they know the Word for themselves their faith has the most essential \_\_\_\_\_ it needs for growth.**

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- Romans 10:14-17

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**Make worship services as enjoyable as possible.**

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Does church really have to be a \_\_\_\_\_ experience for children?

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When Christians get together to worship the King it should be \_\_\_\_\_  
like a great wedding feast.

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- Matthew 22:1-2

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\_\_\_\_\_ your children when they participate in the singing and prayer.

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Use the \_\_\_\_\_ room as a teaching tool.

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You do not want your child to be unruly and distracting but allow them some  
\_\_\_\_\_ to move and observe.

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Find ways to make the church service a \_\_\_\_\_ experience for your child.

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## 5. How Do I Recognize Affiliating Faith?

Jesus could see into people's hearts and know what degree of faith each had. We have to rely on peripheral signs to determine where another disciple is in their walk with God. In this class we are going to learn the external indicators of Affiliating Faith.

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If you believe what you believe because others believe it, you have Affiliating Faith.

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### A. Affiliating Prayer

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You can learn a lot about someone by the way they \_\_\_\_\_.

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Sincere prayers are not vainly \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Matthew 6:5-13

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Fresh spontaneous \_\_\_\_\_ with God happens as we search out our relationship with Him.

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Affiliate believers lack the confidence that prayer can accomplish something beyond the \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **B. Affiliating Response to Change**

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Faith based on affiliation is based on familiarity making any \_\_\_\_\_ a perceived danger.

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Even biblically sound changes appear as a \_\_\_\_\_ to those with Affiliating Faith.

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The \_\_\_\_\_ opposed the changes Jesus was making even though they were for the good.

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- Mark 2:18-22

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Guess what kind of faith the \_\_\_\_\_ had?

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### C. Affiliating Comments

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Affiliate believers \_\_\_\_\_ what they hear other believers saying.

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- Acts 19:23-32

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**As we mature spiritually our speech reflects the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word.**

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**- Proverbs 2:1-10**

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**Be patient with Affiliating Faith; \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't happen overnight.**

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## 6. How Do I Acquire Searching Faith?

If you have Affiliating Faith and want to mature to Searching Faith this class is for you.

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God never intended for you to stay at Affiliating Faith.

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- [John 8:31-38](#)

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## 5 Things you can do to Acquire Searching Faith

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### 1. Ask these questions:

“If \_\_\_\_\_ stopped coming, would I keep going?”

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“I know what I \_\_\_\_\_; but do I know why I \_\_\_\_\_ it?”

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“Am I willing to change what I believe if the \_\_\_\_\_ says so?”

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## 2. Share your faith

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- Acts 1:6-8

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**Water flowing in a pond but not flowing out becomes \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The same happens with faith,**

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- Acts 8:1-4

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**When others are questioning you,**

**it makes you \_\_\_\_\_ out the things you believe.**

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- Acts 4:15-20

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**A sign of \_\_\_\_\_ is learning how to \_\_\_\_\_ others.**

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**3. Practice talking with others about spiritual things.**

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Learn to evolve \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ-centered topics.

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- Colossians 4:2-6

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Talk with \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ and you can talk  
with \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ.

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**4. Read good books; listen to good messages.**

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See what others think about biblical topics and discover  
what is \_\_\_\_\_ with the Bible.

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- Acts 17:11, 19-20

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# CAUTION

Do not be too open-minded or your \_\_\_\_\_ will fall out.

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## 5. Focus on getting to know Jesus

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- Hebrews 12:1-3

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The more you understand Jesus the \_\_\_\_\_ your faith will become.

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# 7. The Struggles of Searching Faith

In this study we will learn the four basic struggles of Searching Faith.

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\_\_\_\_\_ is not always a bad thing.

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Struggle helps us drive down the \_\_\_\_\_ to erect the \_\_\_\_\_  
so we can weather the \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Hebrews 12:4

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- Philippians 2:12

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## 4 Struggles of Searching Faith

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1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle

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The Question: "Is it \_\_\_\_\_?"

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- John 20:24-29

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Some need \_\_\_\_\_ of the truths of Christianity before they will yield to its guidance.

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**The Solution: Test the Bible.**

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- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

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2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle

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**The Question: “What \_\_\_\_\_ is my faith?”**

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Some struggle with whether it is \_\_\_\_\_ the sacrifice to dedicate one’s life to the Christian ideals.

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- Psalm 103:2-13

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**The Solution: Weigh the \_\_\_\_\_ and cons.**

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**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle**

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**The Question: “How can I \_\_\_\_\_ of this?”**

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Some struggle with surrender.

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- Matthew 19:16-22

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**The Solution: Apply the \_\_\_\_\_ you have**

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**4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle**

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**The Question: "Am I too \_\_\_\_\_ for God?"**

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- 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

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We feel like there is no way God could ever \_\_\_\_\_ us.

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**The Solution: Realize that you cannot \_\_\_\_\_,  
but you can be \_\_\_\_\_.**

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## 8. How Did Peter Search Out His Faith?

In this session we will be learning about how the faith of Peter grew during his years with Jesus. If you observe closely, you may find that you and Simon Peter have a great deal in common.

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- John 1:35-42

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Peter came to Christ with \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

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Jesus changed many things in Peter's life starting with his \_\_\_\_\_.  
(John 1:42) \_\_\_\_\_

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- John 6:66-69

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The \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle was not a problem for Peter.  
He knew Jesus was the only way.

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The \_\_\_\_\_ of many followers did not cause Peter to lose his faith. (John 6:66)

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- Mark 10:24-31

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The \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle was not a problem for Peter. He was willing to leave everything for Jesus.

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It is \_\_\_\_\_ to follow Christ relying on human effort. (Mark 10:27)

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- Luke 5:1-11

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**Peter had a \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle. He believed he was too sinful to be with Jesus.**

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**It takes \_\_\_\_\_ to do what Jesus tells us to do when it makes no earthly sense. (Luke 5:5)**

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- Matthew 14:25-31

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**That day Peter learned the secret of faith; stay \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus.**

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\_\_\_\_\_ destroys faith. (Matthew 14:30)

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When we \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is there to lift us up. (Matthew 14:31)

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- Matthew 16:13-23

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Sometimes Peter was right and sometimes he was wrong,  
but his faith grew because he was \_\_\_\_\_.

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Our words and our behavior \_\_\_\_\_ whether our minds are set  
on God's interests or man's. (Matthew 16:23)

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## CONCLUSION

Peter was just a man, Acts 10:26,  
but his life impacted many others because of his \_\_\_\_\_.

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## 9. Job and the Practical Struggle

Job is a diagram of the anatomy of the Practical Struggle. A clear path is laid out showing the way closer to that deep relationship with God which we long for. This class answers the question, "Is it practical to be a follower of God?"

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- Job 1:1-3

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- Job 4:3-4

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**Job \_\_\_\_\_ God and served mankind.**

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- Job 1:6-12

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- Job 1:13-22

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\_\_\_\_\_ believed that suffering and hardship could make people  
turn away from God.

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- Job 2:1-6

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- Job 2:7-10

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Satan tried to prove how easy it was to have \_\_\_\_\_ when all was well.

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- Job 7:5

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- Job 6:11-15

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During hard times we often feel like God is allowing us to  
suffer beyond our \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Job 9:1-4

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**Job struggled with whether it was worth it to obey God.**

**We call this the \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle.**

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- Job 10:9-16

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**Job's struggle stemmed from his faulty \_\_\_\_\_.**

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- Nehemiah 9:17

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- Job 12:4-6

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**Job perceived \_\_\_\_\_ in this world;**

**the righteous suffer while the wicked go unharmed.**

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- Job 22:4-10

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\_\_\_\_\_ was a miserable comforter because of his own faulty theology.

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- Luke 13:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

- John 9:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

- Job 29:2-11

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**During the Practical Struggle we often try to reflect on the \_\_\_\_\_ times.**

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- Job 34:5-15

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**Is God \_\_\_\_\_ when he allows us to lose something which was never ours to begin with?**

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- Job 42:1-6

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**In times of struggle, \_\_\_\_\_ will lead you back to God.**

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## 10. How Do I Start Solidifying My Faith?

Solidifying Faith is where you piece together the answers to the questions you have been searching out. In a sense you will always be searching and learning new things but you also need to go through the process of solidifying the truths you're learning.

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**You will always be searching but at some point you need to come down \_\_\_\_\_ on what you believe.**

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- John 4:46-54

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**For your belief (faith) to grow you must overcome your \_\_\_\_\_.**

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- Mark 9:14-25

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## How do I Start Solidifying my Faith?

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### A. Come to some conclusions

1. I either \_\_\_\_\_ it, or I do not.

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2. Do I accept God's \_\_\_\_\_ for my life?

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- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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### Two Warnings

1. DO NOT set \_\_\_\_\_ limits for spiritual growth.

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2. DO recognize when it is \_\_\_\_\_ to move forward.

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**B. Accept the fact that some questions have to go unanswered for now.**

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**1. We need \_\_\_\_\_ evidence for a conclusion; not exhaustive evidence.**

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- Job 42:1-3

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**2. An infinite God is hard for the \_\_\_\_\_ mind to grasp.**

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- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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**3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ things we do not need to know.**

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- Job 42:3; Deuteronomy 29:29; Matthew 10:16.

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**C. Pray for a spirit of conviction.**

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**1. Half-hearted Christianity is a \_\_\_\_\_ of time.**

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- Mark 12:28-30

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**2. Those who \_\_\_\_\_ for nothing will \_\_\_\_\_ for nothing.**

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- Colossians 3:1-4

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**3. \_\_\_\_\_ your prayers down so you can see how they are being answered.**

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# 11. Up-Again, Down-Again Faith

This study exposes the up and down faith pattern of biblical characters and how we can smooth out the bumps that naturally appear in a life of faith.

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## Examples of Up-Again, Down-Again Faith

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### Abram

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UP – Genesis 12:1-4

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DOWN – Genesis 12:10-13

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UP – Genesis 13:5-12

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DOWN – Genesis 16:1-4

## Israel

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UP - Exodus 12:37-40

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DOWN - Exodus 14:10-12

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UP - Exodus 14:21-22

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DOWN - Exodus 15:22-24

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## Elijah

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UP - 1 Kings 18:22-40

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DOWN - 1 Kings 19:1-5

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## John the Baptist

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UP - John 1:29-34

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DOWN - Matthew 11:1-3

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## Causes of Up-Again, Down-Again Faith

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1. Setting ourselves up for \_\_\_\_\_

- Mark 9:14-28

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False expectations of \_\_\_\_\_.

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False expectations of \_\_\_\_\_.

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False expectations of \_\_\_\_\_.

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**2. Not having our \_\_\_\_\_ removed through perseverance.**

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- James 1:2-8

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**3. \_\_\_\_\_**

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- Matthew 13:20-21

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**4. \_\_\_\_\_**

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- Matthew 13:22

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## 12. What's So Great about Abraham?

Despite his weak moments, Abraham was a man of exemplary faith. This class will explore this person, chosen by God to receive His blessing and what set him apart from all the rest.

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### A. By faith Abraham took God at His word.

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1. Abraham left the comfort of his \_\_\_\_\_ land.

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- Hebrews 11:8-10

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2. God \_\_\_\_\_ it. That settled it.

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- Genesis 15:6

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**3. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ even though he did not know how God was going to accomplish His promise.**

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**B. By faith Abraham passed his beliefs on to Isaac.**

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**1. He invested time in \_\_\_\_\_ teaching him the ways of Jehovah.**

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- Genesis 18:18-19

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2. Any parent who teaches their child to serve God shows they \_\_\_\_\_ their child and their faith.

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### C. By faith Abraham interceded on behalf of others.

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1. A man's faith is reflected in his concern for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

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- Genesis 18:22-33

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2. Abraham wanted \_\_\_\_\_ for the innocent.

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3. Could you carry on so bold a conversation with the \_\_\_\_\_?

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**D. By faith Abraham witnessed the miraculous birth of his son.**

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**1. This happened because of his \_\_\_\_\_ according to Hebrews 11:11-12.**

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**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ tests of Abraham's faith was when God told him to offer up Isaac, Genesis 22:2.**

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**3. Abraham was not a \_\_\_\_\_ man, but he trusted God.**

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# 13. Can I Reach Mature Faith?

God wants our mustard seed faith to grow into fully developed trees (Matthew 17:14-20). Would a loving God demand of us something which is impossible to attain? This class addresses the issue of whether Mature Faith is attainable for Christians today.

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**1. Does Mature Faith seem unreachable because you are relying on your own \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God's?**

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Gideon is introduced in Judges 6:11-12, hiding in his winepress.

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The Amalekites were with the Midianites, Judges 7:12.

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The victory would not come from their own strength, Judges 7:1-7.

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**2. If Mature Faith is impossible to reach, God is awfully \_\_\_\_\_ to expect it from us.**

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- Matthew 17:14-20

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The Hebrew writer was \_\_\_\_\_ when the Christians were not becoming mature, Hebrews 5:11-14.

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**3. Do you believe having Mature Faith means you have reached \_\_\_\_\_ perfection?**

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We know we will never be \_\_\_\_\_ without sin, and we think that is what Mature Faith is, but it is not.

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**4. Maybe you struggle with how to become mature without becoming \_\_\_\_\_.**

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## 14. How Do I Reach Mature Faith?

Curtis reviews six scriptures to study that will illuminate our path toward Mature Faith.

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1. Be a \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word, as you ought to be.

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- Hebrews 5:11-14

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You may not be gifted at speaking to a large audience but everyone can teach someone.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to discern the difference between good and evil.

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- Hebrews 5:14

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Mature Christians use the Bible as their basis for morality.

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**3. If you still have \_\_\_\_\_ for this world, re-focus your life.**

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- 1 John 2:15-17

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Be honest with yourself about whether you have a priority problem.

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**4. Put \_\_\_\_\_ ways behind you.**

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- 1 Corinthians 13:9-12

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Stop pouting or complaining when things don't go your way.

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**5. At the same time, your faith needs \_\_\_\_\_ qualities.**

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- Matthew 18:1-4

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Implicitly trust the wisdom of your Heavenly Father.

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**6. Forget the \_\_\_\_\_ and press on.**

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- Philippians 3:12-15

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You have to forgive yourself before your faith can truly be mature.

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7. Make “winning as many as possible” your \_\_\_\_\_.

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- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

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Mature Christians find ways to lead others to Christ.

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# 15. How Does Satan Attack our Faith?

This class is a scouting report on our arch enemy, Satan, and his scheme to convince you that something or someone else is more important than your relationship with the Christ.

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- John 12:31 \_\_\_\_\_
- John 14:31 \_\_\_\_\_
- John 16:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 22:53 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Colossians 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 John 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 John 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_
- Revelation 12:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Revelation 20:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

## Satan's Scheme for the 21st Century

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Satan is not \_\_\_\_\_. He has a plan, and he knows what he is doing.

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- Ephesians 6:10-12

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- Hebrews 11:1

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### **Satan's Mission Statement**

Satan is trying to make you unsure and uncertain of your faith. He does not have to destroy your faith to win. He just wants to get you to compromise. He works through media, school, music, friends and even family to plant seeds of doubt in your mind. Satan's goal is for you to have stagnant faith; no growth, no reaching out. It pleases him to see nominal church attendance.

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### **Satan attacks faith by:**

1. Providing \_\_\_\_\_

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- Matthew 4:1-11; 5:27-30

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**2. Providing** \_\_\_\_\_

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Job

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**3. Providing** \_\_\_\_\_

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- Proverbs 30:7-9

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We are more inclined to seek God when we are hungry.

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4. Providing \_\_\_\_\_ which discredits the Bible

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5. Convincing us that we are \_\_\_\_\_ God when we are not.

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- Malachi 1:6-10

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- Revelation 3:14-22

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## 16. Do I Trust God?

This final class is the summary of our entire series because in the end, this is what it boils down to, "Do I trust God?"

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- God led the nation of Israel into the wilderness where they could not \_\_\_\_\_ without His help.

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- Exodus 15:22-25

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- They had no \_\_\_\_\_ until the Father provided it, 15:25.

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- They had no \_\_\_\_\_ until the Father provided it, 16:2-4.

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- The people did not have to work or hunt for \_\_\_\_\_, just pick it up, 16:4.

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- God did this to \_\_\_\_\_ whether they would trust Him or not, 16:4.

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- God provided quail and manna. \_\_\_\_\_ means "What is it?" 16:19-21.

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- God told them only to collect \_\_\_\_\_ for one day, 16:16.

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- The people disobeyed and the manna \_\_\_\_\_, 16:20.

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- For 5 days God told them to collect \_\_\_\_\_ for one day, 16:22-26.

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- On the \_\_\_\_\_ day the Father told them to collect enough for two days, 16:22.

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- The manna did not \_\_\_\_\_, 16:24.

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- The manna showed up on the ground every day but \_\_\_\_\_, 16:26.

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- Why was our Lord doing this? He was teaching them to keep the \_\_\_\_\_, 16:27-35.

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- A jar of manna was kept with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenant to remind them that Jehovah provides, 16:34.

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- The Israelites ate manna for \_\_\_\_\_ years, 16:35.

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- Our God does things like this to teach us to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

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I TRUST GOD to forgive me for everything I have done.

I join with Him by forgiving myself.

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I TRUST GOD to forgive my brother for everything he has done.

I join Him by forgiving my brother.

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I TRUST GOD'S ways over my own.

I will obey God even when things do not go my way.

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I TRUST GOD to set the guidelines for all my relationships.

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I TRUST GOD to place me wherever He wants me.

I will be content wherever He wants me.

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I TRUST GOD with all that I am and all that I have.

I vow to trust Him more as I strive to Reach New Levels of Faith.

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