

# Winning the Struggle for Faith

## Opening Question

What are the hardest areas for you to have faith about for your life?

## Bible Study

### Why does having faith feel like a struggle?

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Being spiritual is a struggle because there are dark forces fighting against us every day
- The struggle is good because it means you are fighting to those forces.
- To win, we have to be aware of the spiritual forces against us and what their goal is.

Luke 22:31-32 NIV

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. [32] But I have prayed for you, Simon, that **your faith may not fail**. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

- Satan's goal in the spiritual battle is to steal your faith.
- What are Satan's most effective ways to go after stealing your faith?
- What are ways you can turn back when your faith has drifted away from God?

### How can you take responsibility for your faith?

John 6:28-29 NLT

[28] They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?" [29] Jesus told them, "**This is the only work God wants from you:** Believe in the one he has sent." [30] They answered, "**Show us** a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?"

- Jesus was explaining to these people that it was up to them to grow their faith. However, they still asked Jesus to give them a miracle for them to believe.
- How can you take take responsibility for your faith rather than expect God to do something for you to have faith?

## How can you start winning the struggle for faith?

Hebrews 3:12-15 NIRV

Brothers and sisters, **make sure that none of you** has a sinful heart. Do not let an unbelieving heart turn you away from the living God. [13] But build one another up every day. Do it as long as there is still time. Then none of you will become stubborn. You won't be fooled by **sin's tricks**. [14] We belong to Christ if we hold tightly to the faith we had at first. But we must hold it tightly until the end. [15] It has just been said, "Listen to his voice today. If you hear it, don't be stubborn. You were stubborn when you opposed me."

- We need spiritual relationships to protect us from being fooled by sin's tricks and turn our heart to unbelief rather than faith.
- How can you change your relationships so that you protect each other's faith?

James 2:20-23 NIV

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless ? [21] Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and **his faith was made complete by what he did**. [23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

- Only when we take action is our faith complete.
- What action can you take to based on your faith today?



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