

into how they have worked through their own struggles.

“Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. He says, “You will live by faith, but if you shrink back, I will not be pleased with you” (Hebrews 10:35,36,38).

- How do we gain confidence?
- What displeases God?

6. Attend church services regularly

The Bible encourages us to meet together regularly with other believers. “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

This is essential to spiritual growth. It is in Church that we can easily be encouraged as we worship God. *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).*

- How can Church add to your Faith?
- What can distract us from Church?
- What does Colossians 3:16 teach us?

7. Pray daily

Prayer is simply talking to God. You don't have to use big fancy words. Just be yourself. Prayer is our spiritual breath that communicates our thoughts and ideals with

God. God always answers our prayers . We may get immediate help, or we may have to wait and work through things, or we may not see anything happen, which is God's way of saying no. Remember, he knows what is best for us.

Give thanks to the Lord daily for your salvation. Pray for others in need. Pray for direction. Pray for the Lord to control you daily with His Holy Spirit. There is no limit to prayer.

You can pray with your eyes closed or open; standing, kneeling; or lying on your bed; anywhere, anytime. *“Be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray” (1Peter 4:7). Cp 1Thess. 5:17.*

Make prayer a part of your daily routine and watch the difference.

- When do you pray?
- How does prayer increase your faith?
- What stops you from praying?

Decide now to practice these seven ways to increase your Faith?

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So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- John 8:36 ASSOCIATION

How To Stay Strong in Your Christian Faith



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How To Stay Strong in Your Christian Faith

Sometimes you doubt your faith. Sometimes just finding five minutes for God seems like *just another chore*. God knows that sometimes Christians struggle in their faith. Sometimes devotions do not really seem like devotion, but work. Sometimes Christians wonder if God is even there. Here are some ways to keep your faith strong even when you feel a bit weak. Read them and use them.

1. Believe in the Presence of God

Even in the driest times, when you just don't feel God's presence, you need to remember that God is always there. He does not forget you. True faith is developed even when you don't feel God.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

- How do sense the presence of God?
- How does God reduce fear for you?
- How does God's promises help?

2. Read your Bible daily

Find a Bible reading plan that's right for you. A plan will keep you from missing anything God has written in His Word. Also, if you follow the plan, you'll be on your way to reading through the Bible once every year! The easiest way to truly "grow up" in the

faith is to make Bible reading a priority.

"After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea" (Colossians 4:16). Also consider - 1Timothy 4:13.

- What Bible reading do you do?
- What plan have you found helpful?
- What Bible translation do you use?

3. Have A Daily Devotion

Developing long-term habits is important to maintaining your faith. A daily devotional will keep you in the Word and enhance your prayer life. It will also keep you closer to God even when you struggle in your faith.

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8).

- How many devotions per day?
- How can we keep His word in our heart?
- What is the purpose?
- What is the outcome?

4. Be Active For Jesus

Many people become apathetic over time, because they do not feel connected to a church body. Some churches do not offer ways to connect. Yet, there are a lot of activities on campuses and in the community. You can even look into other ministries. The more connected you are to

the body of Christ, the more likely it is that you will maintain your faith.

Get involved in a ministry group Most churches offer small groups and many ministry opportunities. Pray and ask God where you should "plug in." It's the people who really "get plugged in" that find their purpose and soar in their walk with Christ.

Don't get discouraged if the first thing you try doesn't seem to fit. Find and use your gifts.

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5). *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* (1Peter 4:10).

- What does Romans 12:5 teach us?
- What gift has God given you?
- How often do you 'serve' others?
- What promises are in 1 Peter 4:11?
- How do we sense God's strength?

5. Talk to Someone

Often cultural lifestyles rob us of our spiritual strength. We need to be honest and realize that when faith begins to grow cold, it needs renewing. If God seems far away or you find yourself doubting in your faith, then talk to someone.

Try your pastor, close Christian friends, or your parents, if they are Christians. Talk through your issues and pray with them about your struggle. They can offer insight