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Hebrews 11:6

KINDS OR DEGREES OF FAITH

VAIN FAITH; TRUSTING IN MAN-MADE RELIGION

1. **2 Timothy 3:7** "... always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the _____.
2. **2 Timothy 4:3-4** ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure _____ teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.
3. **Matthew 15:7-9** ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸ "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as _____ the commandments of men." (**See also Isaiah 29:13**)
4. **Jeremiah 5:30-31** ³⁰ An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: ³¹ the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people _____ to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?

FAITH; UNBELIEF/ABSENCE OF FAITH

⁵ And he [Jesus] could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief.
Matthew 13:58 (also Mark 5-6)

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FAITH; VACILLATES WITH CIRCUMSTANCES

²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him,

saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." ²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" **Matthew 8:23-27**

³⁰ But when he [Peter] saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. **Matthew 14:30-32**

FAITH: IN PROCESS/DESIRING GROWTH

²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us

²³ And Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" **Mark 9:20-24**

FAITH: EVIDENCED BY OBEDIENT ACTION

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. **Romans 10:17**

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **1 John 5:3-5**

ACTION STEPS THAT MAKES FAITH WORK

¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

"Work" is a deed/action that carries out/completes an inner desire/intention/purpose.

^{18b} But someone will say, "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." **James 2:17-18b**

1. The first action step of faith leading to godly change is _____ Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. **Romans 10:9-10, NIV**

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:8-10

2. Lordship involves the faith-based action step of committing ourselves to being Jesus' _____ - apprentice/students - to seek and follow His will based in believing 4 truths about God:

A. That God is _____.

B. That God is totally _____.

C. That God _____ loves me.

D. That I can trust that as I take steps of _____ God will lovingly use His power to bring His good into my life.

¹² And now, Israel, [Followers of Christ] what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today...

WHY?

"for your _____ good..."
(Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. **Isaiah 55:6-7**

3. Consistent action steps of _____ keeps moving us from where we are right now and moves us closer to where God wants us to be - like Him and with Him.

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are... ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. **1 John 3:1-3**

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus

Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 2:11-14

REMEMBER WHAT JOHN TRENT SAID ABOUT FINDING SUCCESS IN DOING HARD THINGS THE RIGHT WAY:

The habit of doing what is best, rather than what is comfortable, to achieve a worthwhile outcome.

...This habit focuses on doing whatever is best to reach the good goal, even if it is difficult, uncomfortable, takes longer, and requires more energy."

4. Turning all our life and will over to Jesus results in resting in godly _____!

*The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. **Isaiah 32:17***

²⁵ ...Jesus said... ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:25, 28-30

EXAMPLE OF FAITH IN ACTION FROM THE POOL OF BETHESDA

¹ After this [second miracle in Galilee- healing a boy] there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁷ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. **John 5:1-9**

- 1. If we simply _____ ourselves to others, we may minimize our condition as not being that bad or conclude that being an invalid is simply normal and all we can hope for.**
- 2. We need to face the fact that there are areas in our lives where we have been _____ for much longer amounts of time than we like to admit.**
- 3. Fortunately, the length of our "stuckedness" does not deter God from offering _____.**
- 4. God's healing is available, but we must _____ it.**

5. We need to be careful how much we simply expect others to put us in the position for healing.
6. The _____ we act in faith to obey God's directives, the sooner we will experience healing.
7. Jesus does not heal us to simply have us sit back down in the very _____ place.
8. We must start walking _____ in God's ways and do so from now on.

THE LIMITS OF TRUSTING MAN-MADE THINGS

¹ Hear the word that the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel. ² Thus says the Lord: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, ³ for the customs of the peoples are vanity.

A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. ⁴ They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move.

⁵ Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good."

...⁸ They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! ⁹ Beaten silver... They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men.

¹¹ Thus shall you say to them: "The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens."

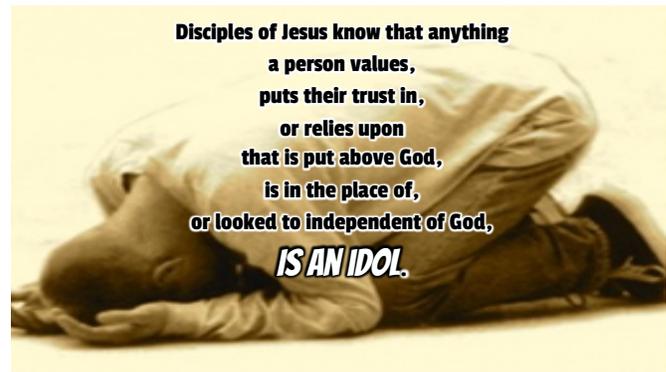
¹⁴ Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them.

¹⁵ They are worthless, a work of delusion...Jeremiah 10

1. Things that are trusted in, besides the God of the Bible, only exist through mental creativity, ingenuity, and the skill of _____ beings.
2. The thing created cannot communicate, move, do evil, or do any good without _____ empowerment.
3. The Bible says trusting in imagined or created things is _____ and foolish.
4. They can only provide for the trusting person to the level they have been _____.

Everything created must have a creator, and the created thing cannot be any _____ than the greatness of the one that made it.

So how much trust one puts into something made is _____ to the greatest of the creator.



THE LIMITLESS POTENTIAL OF TRUSTING THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

⁶ There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might.

¹⁰ But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King...

¹² It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

⁷ Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.

1. The God of the Bible exists _____ of man's mental images, creativity, ingenuity or skill.
2. God communicates and moves, cannot do evil, but only good, all within His free and sovereign _____.
3. There is _____ like the Lord because He is the true and living God; the everlasting King.

Unless you need more power, wisdom or understanding than what it takes to create and manage the universe, there is nothing you need that He can't or won't supply.

OUR FAITH IS ONLY AS GOOD AS WHAT OR WHO WE PUT OUR TRUST IN.

*When I was a child,
I spoke like a child,
I thought like a child,
I reasoned like a child.*

*When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.
I Corinthians 13:11*

In the early stages of faith, we are all children. Our faith vocabulary, our thinking about faith, and the way we use faith in reasoning the way we deal with life are all immature. That is to be expected. But as disciples of Jesus, we are to be growing up in our faith. The deeper we grow in our knowledge of

God's word, and grow in our commitment to mature in our faith, the better we will be able to communicate our faith, be more mature in our

thinking about our faith, and more able to apply our faith to how we deal with life.

AT LEAST ONE WAY THIS WEEK I WILL TRY TO PUT THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE IS:

**Weekly Going Deeper Study Guide
For Faith Plus Action Leads to Transformation**

1. Without being in a rush, read through this week's lesson 3 times – once on 3 different days, and as you do keep #2 in mind to see what God might show you.
2. Before you begin, pray a prayer like the following and below it write down something the Lord shows you that you can do or can stop doing right now to help you move forward.

Lord I believe that you're the God of forward motion and blessed futures. I trust that you have a better future for me than I have been able to create on my own. I also believe that working cooperatively with you miraculous things can happen, doors can open and opportunities can become available to me. I trust you Father that you know what is best for me and that you can lead me towards spiritual well-being.

And I know that you do not want me to be in neutral gear doing nothing to grow in my Christian life, and you certainly do not want me to go in reverse. However, I know if I don't intentionally work on my wounds, hindrances and unhealthy dependencies, I will stay right where I am, or worse, I will go backwards.

So right now I pray in your name Jesus, will you show me something practical from the lesson this week that I can do or stop doing right now to keep me moving forward and to take me in the direction of spiritual well-being?

HERE IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN GROUP AS TO HOW PUTTING THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE WENT THIS WEEK: