

## How to Acquire This Faith

Faith or trust is not achieved by working on faith, but it is the result of a relationship. For you to trust someone, you first need to KNOW the person. The only way to know someone is by spending time with him. The more time you spend communicating with someone, the more you will understand him. Your appreciation grows from knowing to knowing better until trust is finally developed.

Honestly, do we spend time; I mean, *quality time* with God? Do we acknowledge his presence with us at ALL times? Do we recognize the heavenly atmosphere of angels that surrounds us constantly without ceasing? The more we become familiar with these REALITIES the more our faith and trust in God will grow.

The Word of God contains His messages and promises to us. They are His way of reaching us and teaching about himself and His desire for us. The more we become familiar with these words the more our faith will grow, because the words of God are the source of faith. (Rom 10:17) Pure faith is simply listening to God and knowing that what God says is true all the time. If God says it, it is so, and we are convicted about the reality of what he says because we know he is our Father.

This is our need, and this only will change our lives. Our faith must lay hold on Him in order for his words to materialize in our experience, becoming a reality in our lives here and now.

## Appeal

May we make a decision for him today and be faithful to that decision until this experience becomes real in us and our lives become a witness to God living in us. This is what the world is waiting for today. (Rom 8:19)

## For Further information

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## Our Greatest Need

The word “greatest” implies the foremost, top or that which is at the pinnacle. What we want to discuss here is THE need that is above all others existing in our lives. Our need is normally directly related to our problem so, if we want to correctly address our greatest need, we first have to examine our greatest problem.

There is a single verse in the Bible that tells of our greatest need and implies our greatest problem in the same breath. Here is the verse: “...*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8)

### What is Our Greatest Problem?

According to this verse there is a lack that exists on the earth—lack of FAITH. It even suggests that this lack may remain until the coming of the Son of God. It is not lack of money. It is not sickness and disease. Our problem is far more fundamental, lying at the root of all else. This greatest of all problems is by inheritance (Rom 5:12). It is built into the very life we possess; something which has been passed on to us from our first parents, Adam and Eve. It is lack of faith or, more directly, *unbelief*: we do not believe the reality of the God of this universe. Of course, we are very good at professing belief, but these words mean nothing if they are not applied to our life in reality. We cannot believe God, because we do not know Him personally. All we have are little glimpses from what we hear or read.

### The Consequences of Unbelief

Simply put, unbelief is lack of trust. Let us first put that in perspective in our social relationships: what is your attitude to someone you don't know? Do you willingly share information that you consider to be personal? What is your relationship to someone you don't trust? In these cases you are very cautious and reserved because your ignorance and distrust inhibits your freedom to be open and free. The point is that when trust is involved you are free and at liberty to be open. Think of a young child who grows up in an atmosphere of love, trust and confidence. This child will do daring things like jump from heights to a father they trust and know.

In a similar way, there is a relationship that exists with God. This relationship is built on the same level of Father and child, EXCEPT we are dealing with a father who is FAR superior to any father we have known and so his love is greater than any love we would have felt

from an earthly parent. BUT because we don't know him we don't experience even a fraction of that love.

Since we don't know him and are ignorant of his character, ways and love, we live in a state of unbelief, preventing us from experiencing the blessings that come from him. Let me explain. Is it possible for a child to have a loving relationship with a father who is a millionaire and that child suffer for lack of money? Or what if a father has power over sickness and disease, can his child die from an ailment?

Absolutely impossible. The only way this could happen is if the child does not trust the father enough to allow him to help. We have such a Father, but most of us are unaware (ignorant) of it. We don't have a relationship that allows us to trust Him with our entire life.

Don't you sometimes wish there was such a person that you could let yourself go in his hand and never worry about anything? Don't you wish childhood would have continued where your parents took care of everything and you never worried? Yet this is exactly what Christianity is all about! It is about having such a Father that takes care of ALL our needs according to His abilities.

The truth of the matter is that we know a lot **about** God, and we can talk much about his attributes and abilities. Most times this information is what we hear from others who have heard from yet others. The testimony is sometimes third and fourth hand, and almost never first hand or personal.

### **New Testament Christianity**

The amazing fact is that this God desires to know each person on a one-to-one basis. This is the privilege of New Testament Christianity. Here is a valuable verse that shows how distinctly different is this Christianity. *“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”* (Matt 11:11)

Have you ever thought about the mentioning of this kingdom of heaven before? I know most people view this phrase in reference to the coming of Jesus in the clouds, but this is talking about a kingdom that is on the earth here and now. It has been in existence since the day of Pentecost when Jesus came back and filled his church with his very presence when he was glorified. This kingdom is the receiving of the King inside. (Luke 17:20-21)

### **The Kingdom of Heaven**

Jesus made a promise to his disciples that some would see HIM coming in his kingdom before they died. (Matt 16:28) He said also they would see the kingdom come with power before they died. (Mk 1:9) Did they see this kingdom come? Sure they did – it all took place at Pentecost! They knew it was HE who came back according to his promise (Luke 24:49), filling each of the one hundred and twenty believers waiting in the upper room. (Acts 1:15)

It was the Spirit of Jesus (The Holy Spirit) that brought the disciples into the Kingdom of Heaven on earth! Every person who receives the same Spirit they received is a part of the same kingdom! (Rom 8:9) This kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, producing the righteousness of Jesus in one's life. The life of Jesus is the life of New Testament Christianity – the life of the Kingdom. It is victorious over sin, sickness and even death. This superior life of the kingdom was only short-lived in the church, eventually becoming lost through unbelief. The disciples experienced it and turned the world upside down, but as soon as they started dying the Spirit and power of the Kingdom began to be lost sight of, eventually disappearing from the people's vision. No one believes it anymore.

### **Faith – Our Greatest Need**

Faith, belief, trust, confidence and assurance are all wrapped up in this greatest of all needs. Can you imagine what would happen if we had an experience similar to that of the disciples after Pentecost? Can you imagine what example the world would see if you and I and all who are called by the name of Christ would begin to trust God with our all, having the faith, confidence and assurance that he would give us the experience of the kingdom here on earth today? The ONLY reason we don't have that experience on earth today is because we don't believe it (Unbelief).

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* (Heb 11:6)

The unbelief of our generation has not been pleasing to God because there can be no witness to His love. The world is perishing without the light of the gospel to bring the testimony of His matchless love and Fatherhood to a world groping in evil and darkness. What we need is an experience with Him that will testify to the world of a life superior in quality to what exists around us.