

What is faith? How do we get more faith? Does faith come in sizes? In the Nativity story Mary demonstrated six aspects and characteristics of faith. In today's study we'll look at facing and overcoming our doubts with the B.A.S.I.C.S. of faith.

## The Faith Of Mary: Overcoming Doubt

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

### Faith is not about \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 8:23-27; 14:22-32; 16:5-12; 17:14-21

*"One day the apostles said to the Lord, 'We need more faith; tell us how to get it.' ... 'if you had faith as small as a mustard seed,' the Lord answered, 'you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May God uproot you and throw you into the sea,' and it would obey you!'"*  
Luke 17:5-6 (NLT)

## The B.A.S.I.C.S. Of Faith

*"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.'" Luke 1:37 (NLT)*

### **B**

#### Before I See It

*"For our life is a matter of faith...we live by believing and not by seeing."  
2 Corinthians 5:7 (TEV & NLT)*

*"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see." Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)*

*"I am the LORD ... Nothing is too difficult for me." Jeremiah 32:27 (GN)*

*"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..." Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)*

### **A**

#### Before I Understand It

*"So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead... Show me how anyone can have faith without actions. I will show you my faith by my actions." James 2:17-18 (GN)*

*"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)*

*"It was faith that made Abraham offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice when God put Abraham to the test. Abraham was the one to whom God had made the promise, yet he was ready to offer his only son as a sacrifice. God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that you will have the descendants I promised.' Abraham reckoned that God was able to raise Isaac from death..."*  
Hebrews 11:17-19 (GN)

# S

## Before I Receive It

*“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.”  
Hebrews 11:30 (NIV)*

*“The Lord said to Joshua, “I have given you Jericho, its king and its mighty warriors.”  
Joshua 6:2 (NIV)*

# I

## Before I Have It

*“Our friends, we want you to know what God's grace has accomplished in the churches in Macedonia. They have been severely tested by the troubles they went through; but their joy was so great that they were extremely generous in their giving, even though they are very poor. I can assure you that they gave as much as they could, and even more than they could. Of their own free will they begged us and pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God's people in Judea.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (GN)*

# C

## When I Don't Feel Like It

*“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.” Hebrews 11:27 (NIV)*

**We can only do the \_\_\_\_\_ when  
we focus on the \_\_\_\_\_**

# S

## When I Don't Receive It

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)*

*“... the LORD will hear when I call to Him...(God says) He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.” Psalms 4:3, 91:15 (NIV)*

# Personal Study - Growth Homework

## GETTING STARTED

When it comes to faith in your life how would you rate your faith level ... low, medium or high?  
Why?

Mark 9:23 (NLT) says, "*Anything is possible if a person believes.*" If you had more faith right now what would you stop thinking about, worrying about, stressing over and trust God for or step out and do?

## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

What do you think are the greatest barriers that keep us from having more faith in our lives?  
How do fear and doubt travel together in our lives?

Of the six faith B.A.S.I.C.S. which one is the hardest for you?

When you read Hebrews 11 and all the great stories of faith which one stands out to you and why?

Jeremiah 32:27 in the Good News translation says, "*I am the LORD ... Nothing is too difficult for me.*" How would your life be different if you really believed this – by faith stepped out and took this to be true?

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-26 and discuss the faith of Jehosaphat

## GOING DEEPER

Jesus said in Matthew 9:29 it was according to our faith that God works in our lives ... *"According to your faith, it will be done unto you."* In a nutshell God says we get to choose how much He blesses our life ... "You believe and I'll do it - I'll bless you according to your faith." Read and discuss 2 Kings 4:1-7. How was this principle lived out and demonstrated in the widow's life?

How does this change and impact what it means to "live by faith"?

One of the BASICS of faith, the ingredients we looked at this weekend is "continuing and persisting when we don't feel like it." Take a look at Hebrews 11:27. What did Moses do to persevere? What does that mean? What would this look like in our lives - how would we know we are doing this?

What does Hebrews 12:1-3 say about perseverance?

The New Testament tells us the Apostle Paul had to persevere some incredible difficulty. You can read about it Corinthians 6:3-10 & 11:23-33. Why was Paul able to persevere and not give up even though he experienced incredible hardship and tough times? Take a look at Philippians 3:12-16 and 4:8-9. What insight does this give you to Paul's persevere?

What would this look like in our lives today?  
What would this mean for you and your life?

Hebrews 10:24-25 talks about the role we play in helping others persevere. What does the writer in this passage mean when he says, "spur one another on"? How do we do this? What is the risk we take in doing this? What do you think would happen if more Christ Followers practiced this?

So bottom line ... what is God saying to you?