

# Increasing Our Faith

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 6:31-34

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God has called us to a life of faith. We read that “*without faith, it is impossible to please God.*” In many ways, faith and fear/worry/anxiety/ are opposite of each other (and in some ways, they are not opposites). When we live in fear, we tend towards weaker faith, not necessarily absent faith. And, conversely when we walk in faith, fear has no hold on us. Our walk will lead us to the furnace or the lion’s den.

A Biblical contrast of faith and fear can be seen in David and Saul. David led a life of exemplary faith. Saul, on the other hand, became consumed by his fear.

- Saul offered a burnt offering to the Lord in fear rather than faith; Samuel said it was a foolish offering (1 Samuel 13:6-8, 11-13)
- Saul followed the direction of the people out of fear (1 Samuel 15:14-15, 18-22)
- Saul feared David’s rise to fame as the people praised him (1 Samuel 18:6-9)
- Saul’s fear led to:
  - He usurped Samuel’s priestly authority and unlawfully offered sacrifice (1 Sam 13:9)
  - He followed the people’s desires rather than choosing obedience to God (1 Sam 15:9-15)
  - He became jealous, angry, and hateful towards David and tried to kill him many times. (1 Sam 18-20).
  - He commissioned Doeg to slaughter 85 priests of the Lord (1 Samuel 22:18)

## **I. Don’t Follow the Example of the World (Matthew 6:31-32)**

- A. When we find ourselves anxious and worried over food, drink, and clothing or certain things that we lack, understand that we are living like the Gentiles (world, pagans, heathen), those without God.
1. To be heathen is to have no special revelation from God.
  2. To be heathen is to not know the way of salvation through Christ.
  3. To be heathen is to not know the promises of God.
  4. To be heathen is to live in darkness rather than light.
  5. Categories of Heathen
    - a) Everything that happens in life is an accident; no rhyme or reason to life; never know what is next.
    - b) Fatalism is the other category. Things happen, and there is nothing you can do.
    - c) As a result, the world lives for the moment. Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.  
The Gentiles “seek after” – searching, looking for, earnestly seeking.
      - (1) **Acts 11:25**, *So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,*
      - (2) **Acts 12:19**, *And after Herod searched for him [Peter] and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death..*
- B. Instead, as believers, we are to live differently.
1. Christians have the Word of God to consult, which reveals a caring heavenly Father (vs. 32)
  2. Christians have life and life more abundantly through Christ.
  3. Christians have the promises of God to count on.
  4. Christians walk in Light, not Darkness.

## **II. Trust Implicitly Your Heavenly Father (Matthew 6:32b)**

- A. Trust your Father that nothing happens to you apart from Him. Trust him!
1. With your family, with your bank account, with your future, with your health, with your life
  2. **Hebrews 13:5**, *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*
- B. Questions to ask p 410
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### III. Perfect Your Relationship with the Father (Matthew 6:33)

- A. “*Seek your first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...*” If we are going to worry, let’s worry about this!
- B. We should be seeking to know God better through His word.
  - 1. **Hebrews 11:6**, *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*
  - 2. Not seeking God, causes us to miss so many blessings.
- C. We should focus on the Kingdom and not on this world
  - 1. **2 Corinthians 4:17–18**, *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*
  - 2. **Colossians 3:1–2**, *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*
- D. We should seek righteousness (holiness).
  - 1. All these things (1 Kings 3)

### IV. Trust God with Tomorrow (Matthew 6:34)

- A. Making reasonable provisions for tomorrow is sensible and advisable (**Luke 14:28**, *For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*).
- B. God’s mercy/steadfast love is ever present (**Lamentations 3:22–23**, *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*).
  - 1. When we are anxious, we deny God’s promises.
  - 2. When we are anxious, we deny God’s presence.
- C. Jesus knows us well; if our present needs are met, we will worry about our future needs not being met.
- D. Our Lord instructs us to focus on today’s struggle, temptation, opportunity, and trials.
  - 1. We are told not to worry about tomorrow; it is in the Father’s hands.
  - 2. Today has enough trouble of its own; focus on today
  - 3. God promises His grace and mercy for each day as they come; not for every day (See Lam 3:22-23)
  - 4. God does not give grace for tomorrow, today.
- E. **Isaiah 26:3–4**, *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. 4 Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.*
- F. **Psalms 46:1–3**, *God is our refuge [place of safety] and strength, a very [exceedingly; “off the chart!”] present [to remain in place over time] help in trouble [engaged in helping or aiding; active in help]. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah*

### V. Battling the Unbelief of Anxiety

- 1. Stand on the promises of God.
- 2. Recognize the spiritual battle of faith.