



Faith

FAITH

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(Hebrews 11:6)

Faith is the most important element in life—for without it, it is impossible to please God. At the core, faith is an act of trust by which we commit ourselves to someone or something.

Faith is believing. Believing in the object of our trust. Believing in ourselves. Believing in another person. Ultimately, believing in God.

Faith is so important that it is mentioned over three hundred times in the Bible. The first reference to believing in God is found in the story of Abraham. The Scripture says that Abraham "believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:6). This particular step of faith is so significant that the above statement is repeated three times in the New Testament (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23).

OBJECT OF OUR FAITH

The power of our faith rests in the object of our faith. At the foundation of all love is a belief in the object that is loved. If we do not believe in a person, we cannot love him or her. The same is true in our spiritual journey. We must begin with God: believing that He exists, believing that He cares, and believing that His love is real.

The New Testament term for faith (Greek, *pistis*) means a "firm persuasion." It is a belief or conviction based on confidence in God's promises. The Old Testament word for faith is *'aman*, meaning to "establish" or "confirm." It is the basis of the word *amen*, which comes from the same root. The main elements of faith involve an acknowledgment of God's revealed truth and a personal surrender to Him. The object of Abraham's faith was not just the promise of God; his faith rested in God Himself. The key to the Christian life is our faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial and atoning death for our sins. We not only believe that He died on the Cross as a

fact of history, but we believe that He died for our sins personally.

Our salvation is "by grace . . . through faith" (Eph. 2:8). It is based on God's grace and experienced personally by faith in Him. He is the object of our faith and His death for our sins makes possible the forgiveness of our sins. When we trust what Jesus did for us on the Cross, we receive the gift of eternal life (John 3:16-18). God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. So He tells us to stop trying to save ourselves and trust what He has already done for us as a sufficient payment for our sins.

REWARD OF OUR FAITH

Faith is the key that unlocks the door of heaven. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Romans 1:16, 17 adds, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes . . . as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

Faith is also the key to getting our prayers answered. When the desperate woman touched Jesus for healing, He responded: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction" (Mark 5:34). Jesus also said: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). We cannot make God answer our prayers because we

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EVIDENCE

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don't always see His complete will and purpose in our lives. But generally there is a **correlation to our faith and His response**.

Hebrews 11 lists the Old Testament heroes of the faith. Each one trusted God in a unique way. Their confidence in God's promises resulted in personal obedience to His will for their lives. They clung to the hope that God would eventually triumph over what was challenging them. Thus, Abraham obeyed, Sarah conceived, Isaac blessed, Jacob worshiped, Joseph instructed, Moses forsook Egypt, and the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea on their way to the Promised Land (Heb. 11:8-29).

EVIDENCE OF OUR FAITH

James reminds us that saving faith and righteous works go hand in hand (James 2:14-24). Neither can be isolated from the other. Faith is the *root* of our salvation; good works are the *fruit* of our salvation. Works alone cannot save us. They are the result of our salvation and not the cause of it. Just as an apple tree will bear apples, so faith will produce good works: "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:43, 44).

Faith and works go hand in hand. We are saved by faith alone in what Jesus has done for us. But saving faith, if it is real, will result in faithfulness. The evidence of such faith will be demonstrated by the changes it produces in our lives. When someone truly believes in Jesus Christ, their belief will change the way they live. Faith certainly changed the lives of people in biblical times. And it is still changing lives today.

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of faith include:

- > Habakkuk 2:4
- > Matthew 6:30-34
- > Luke 17:5
- > Romans 3:22-28; 5:1
- > 2 Timothy 4:7
- > Hebrews 12:2
- > 2 Peter 1:1-9

³⁷ "For yet a little while,
And He^a who is coming will come and
will not tarry.

³⁸ Now the^a just shall live by faith;

But if anyone
draws back,
My soul has no
pleasure in
him."^b

"Now the just shall live by faith;
but if anyone draws back, My soul
has no pleasure in him."

HEBREWS 10:38

³⁹But we are not of
those who draw back to
perdition, but of those who believe to the sav-
ing of the soul.

BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND

11 Now faith is the substance of things
hoped for, the evidence of things not
seen.² For by it the elders obtained a good tes-
timony.

³By faith we understand that the worlds
were framed by the word of God, so that the
things which are seen were not made of things
which are visible.

FAITH AT THE DAWN OF HISTORY

faith Abel offered to God a more excel-
lent sacrifice than Cain, through which he ob-
tained witness that he was righteous, God
testifying of his gifts; and through it he being
dead still speaks.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken away so that he

did not see death, "and was not found, be-
cause God had taken him";^a for before he was
taken he had this testimony, that he pleased
God. ⁶But without faith it is impossible to

please Him, for he who
comes to God must be-
lieve that He is, and
that He is a rewarder
of those who diligently
seek Him.

⁷By faith Noah, be-
ing divinely warned of
things not yet seen, moved with godly fear,
prepared an ark for the saving of his house-
hold, by which he condemned the world and
became heir of the righteousness which is ac-
cording to faith.

FAITHFUL ABRAHAM

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was
called to go out to the place which he would
receive as an inheritance. And he went out,
not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he
dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign
country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Ja-
cob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
¹⁰for he waited for the city which has founda-
tions, whose builder and maker is God.

¹¹By faith Sarah herself also received

10:37 ^aOr that which 10:38 ^aNU-Text reads My
just one. ^bHabakkuk 2:3, 4 11:5 ^aGenesis 5:24



Faith

KEY PASSAGE

UNSEEN YET VERY REAL

(11:1-6)

To have faith means more than just to believe. Hebrews defines faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith starts out certain. When people believe that God will fulfill His promises, they are showing true faith—even when they don't see evidence despite trusting in the character of God, believing His promises, and knowing that His rewards are sure. Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

When people have faith in God, they know without a doubt that He will keep His promises. They live and make choices in this world based on the unseen reality of their future home in heaven. They persevere in their faith despite pain, hardship, or persecution, because they are convinced that the unseen God is with them. In short, faith in God makes all the difference, both now and for eternity.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about faith on pages 1634, 1635. See also the personality profile of Abraham on page 21

to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Still others had trial of mockings and scourings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,^a were slain with the sword. They wandered

about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

THE RACE OF FAITH

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run

with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

HEBREWS 12:3

THE DISCIPLINE OF GOD

³For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you be-

come weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;
⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."^a

11:37 ^aNU-Text omits *were tempted*.

12:6 ^aProverbs 3:11, 12

SOUL NOTE



Get in the Race (12:1-4) In order to run well, runners must let go of any weights that slow them down and just focus on the finish line. Likewise, believers must set aside any weight of sin in order to "run with endurance" toward the finish line of life. We know we'll finish, because the Savior is "the author and finisher of our faith," and He stands at the finish line to welcome us into eternity. When the hurdles of life are looming ahead of us and when the race seems too difficult, we need to get our eyes fixed on Jesus. **Topic: Faith**

SOUL NOTE



For Our Good (12:5-11) Children don't enjoy discipline. But parents know that tough discipline is sometimes required in order to teach an important lesson. The same is true for God's children. Though they love God, believers are sometimes disobedient—rebellious against His rules. God's discipline proves that He loves His children. Discipline may come in the form of consequences, pain, or trials, but its goal is to mold and shape us. Like a loving Father, God disciplines us because He wants to keep us safe and help us mature. **Topic: Child Discipline**

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vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying:

"To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. ²So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. ³Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. ⁴So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had

PERSONALITY PROFILE



Faith

ABRAHAM: STEPPING OUT ON FAITH

(GENESIS 15)

Abraham practiced an inside-out faith. What he believed in his mind and heart he put to action with his life. He turned trust into travel and experienced God's grace and power along the way.

God chose Abraham and invited him on a faith-stretching journey. Abraham had to pack up his large and wealthy clan, leave a lush river valley, and trust God's protection and guidance. God directed him to Canaan, a hardscrabble land of warring tribes. God's promise had included both a land and a legacy. God told Abraham He would give him a place and make from him a people. "Get out of your country . . . to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you. . . . And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:1-3).

The promise of a land came true long before the promise of a child. When Abraham and Sarah were very old, well past childbearing years, God promised them a son who would be the tangible evidence and living carrier of God's promise. As often happens during a divine waiting period, the people involved thought of possible ways to help God accomplish His plan. But their efforts only served to make their situation more complicated. Like us, Abraham wasn't always sure what faith required him to do.

Despite their all-too-real imperfections, Sarah and Abraham are listed among the heroes in the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. God eventually did bless them with their promised son Isaac. Through them the nation of Israel was born, the lineage of Jesus Christ was begun, and the plan to bless the world with a Savior continued to develop. God's plan rested on the shoulders of a man who practiced inside-out faith.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about faith on pages 1634, 1635. See also the key passage note at Hebrews 11:1-6 on page 1632.

chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. ⁴¹So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield *went* before him. ⁴²And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking. ⁴³So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts

of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

⁴⁸So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. ⁵⁰So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone,

and struck the Philistine and killed him. But *there was* no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it.

And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. ⁵²Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley^a and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. ⁵³Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. ⁵⁴And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

⁵⁵When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?"

And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

⁵⁶So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is."

⁵⁷Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸And Saul said to him, "Whose son *are* you, young man?"

So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

SAUL RESENTS DAVID

18 Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit

17:52 ^aFollowing Masoretic Text, Syriac, Targum, and Vulgate; Septuagint reads *Gath*.

"Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

1 SAMUEL 17:47

SOUL NOTE



Secret Weapon (17:45) Goliath of Gath was a champion, a warrior experienced at combat. Not only that, he was a giant of a man armed with giant weapons. Young David had only a sling and some small stones. But David had something that Goliath didn't—faith in the living God. When David came at

Goliath "in the name of the LORD of hosts," there was no competition. With faith, we can do anything God calls us to do, even defeat the "giants" in our lives. **Topic: Faith**

and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

²⁰And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and* cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²²Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

²⁵"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."^a

NEBUCHADNEZZAR PRAISES GOD

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace *and* spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come *here*." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

²⁷And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

²⁸Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed

be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel^a and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! ²⁹Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SECOND DREAM

4 Nebuchadnezzar the king,

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:

Peace be multiplied to you.

² I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

³ How great *are* His signs,
And how mighty His wonders!
His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,
And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. ⁵I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. ⁶Therefore I

3:25 ^aOr a son of the gods 3:28 ^aOr angel

SOUL NOTE



Unflinching Faith (3:16-18) "But if not." With these three words (3:18), Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego offered King Nebuchadnezzar a remarkable display of faith toward God. It's one thing to walk into a fiery furnace with the knowledge that God will protect us. It's quite another thing to walk into that same furnace knowing that God may choose to let us die for reasons we don't even understand! Faith is not simply a matter of believing that God will do what we think is best for us. Faith is believing that *whatever* God does is best, regardless of how it seems to affect us. **Topic: Faith**

en, being evil. I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

BUILD ON THE ROCK

²⁴"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

²⁸And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

JESUS CLEANSSES A LEPER

8 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ²And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

³Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

⁴And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

JESUS HEALS A CENTURION'S SERVANT

⁵Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

⁷And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

⁸The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

¹⁰When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ¹¹And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹²But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW HEALED

¹⁴Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.^a

MANY HEALED AFTER SABBATH SUNSET

¹⁶When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*"He Himself took our infirmities
And bore our sicknesses."^a*

8:15 ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *Him*. 8:17 ^aIsaiah 53:4

SOUL NOTE



Such Faith! (8:5-13) A centurion—an officer who commanded 100 soldiers—asked Jesus to heal his servant. The centurion knew, from his own experience of giving commands, that Jesus only had to speak a word and the servant would be healed. Jesus "marveled, and said to those who followed . . . 'I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!'" Such great faith comes when we believe what we do not see, when we trust Jesus to do what seems impossible. Such faith pleases Him. **Topic: Faith**

we picture it? ³¹*It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; ³²but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.*"

JESUS' USE OF PARABLES

³³And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. ³⁴But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

WIND AND WAVE OBEY JESUS

the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

³⁹Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN HEALED

5 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.^a ²And when He had come out of the boat, immediately

there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him,^a even with chains, ⁴because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."

⁸For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" ⁹Then He asked him, "What is your name?"

And he answered saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

¹¹Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹²So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." ¹³And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

¹⁴So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵Then they came to Jesus, and saw

But He said to them,
"Why are you so fearful? How is
it that you have no faith?"

MARK 4:40

4:40 ^aNU-Text reads *Have you still no faith?*

5:1 ^aNU-Text reads *Gerasenes*. 5:3 ^aNU-Text reads *anywhere*. 5:13 ^aNU-Text reads *And He gave*.



SOUL NOTE

Rock the Boat (4:35-41) Jesus and the disciples got into a boat and began to cross the Sea of Galilee. A storm suddenly arose and the boat began filling with water. Jesus was so exhausted, however, that He slept soundly. When the terrified disciples awoke Him, Jesus stood up and calmed the storm. The disciples were stunned. "How is it that you have no faith?" Jesus asked. He was with them, yet they did not trust Him. When our "boats" are rocked by the storms of life, do we believe that Jesus can bring calm? Or would He question our faith in Him? **Topic: Faith**