

Grace Guide



AUGUST 24-30

“So Little Faith”

MONDAY
8/24

2 CHRONICLES 20:1-12

When a vast army comes against Judah, King Jehoshaphat is understandably afraid. Yet instead of pretending to have the situation under control, he turns to God with the people and admits, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” That may be one of the most honest expressions of faith in Scripture. Faith doesn't require us to have all the answers or to feel confident about what will happen next. Sometimes faith simply means acknowledging our limitations and deliberately turning our attention toward the One who is greater than our circumstances. When we don't know what to do, we can still know where to look.

1. What does it look like practically to keep your eyes on God when circumstances are demanding your attention?
2. Why might admitting our inability be an important part of genuine faith rather than a sign that our faith has failed?

TUESDAY
8/25

HABAKKUK 3:16-19

The prophet Habakkuk has heard terrible news, and he trembles at what is coming. He knows that the crops may fail, the animals may disappear, and the nation's circumstances may become desperate. Yet he reaches a remarkable conclusion: even if everything he normally depends upon disappears, he will still rejoice in God. Notice that his confidence does not come from denying how frightening the situation is. He acknowledges his fear before choosing where to place his hope. Christian faith does not mean that we never tremble, grieve, or wonder what will happen. It means that even when life strips away the things we thought would sustain us, God remains worthy of our trust and is still our strength.

1. What fears or uncertainties do you find hardest to bring honestly before God? What things besides God are you tempted to depend upon for your security, peace, or happiness?
2. How does acknowledging your fear and uncertainty actually become an expression of trust rather than an obstacle to it?

WEDNESDAY
8/26

2 CORINTHIANS 12:6-10

The apostle Paul describes a persistent weakness that he desperately wants God to remove. Three times he asks, and three times he receives no promise that the difficulty will disappear. Instead, God tells him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Paul gradually learns that his weakness does not make him useless to God. In fact, it can become the very place where God's strength is most clearly seen. We often imagine that we need to become stronger, more confident, or more capable before God can work through us. But God is not waiting for us to become impressive. Our limitations can become opportunities to depend more completely upon his grace and to discover that his power is not limited by what we lack.

1. What weakness or limitation in your life might be an opportunity for your faith in God to grow?
2. How do you understand and experience God's statement in your life: "My grace is sufficient for you"?

THURSDAY

8/27

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus is not that they would simply know more about God, but that they would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, rooted in love, and filled with the fullness of God. He recognizes that the Christian life requires a strength that cannot come from within ourselves. Even our ability to comprehend the depth of Christ's love is greater than we can fully grasp on our own. This is encouraging when our faith feels inadequate because God is not asking us to manufacture spiritual strength by ourselves. He is at work within us, doing far more than we can ask or imagine. Our part is to remain open to his presence and allow him to strengthen us from the inside out.

1. Where do you most need God's strength in your life right now?
2. What is the difference between trying harder to be a faithful Christian and allowing God to strengthen you through his Spirit?

FRIDAY

8/28

PSALM 13

Psalm 13 begins with a question that many faithful people have asked: "How long, O Lord?" David feels forgotten, overwhelmed, and unable to see an answer to his troubles. Yet the psalm does not end there. Somewhere in the midst of his anguish, David turns his attention back toward God's steadfast love and chooses to trust him. Nothing in the circumstances described at the beginning of the psalm has necessarily changed. What changes is where David places his confidence. This is an important reminder that faith does not require us to hide our disappointment or pretend that everything is fine. We can bring our questions, fears, and pain honestly to God while still choosing to believe that his love has not changed.

1. What do you learn from David's willingness to speak honestly to God about his disappointment?
2. What truths about God's character can you hold onto when you cannot see an answer to your prayers?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
8/29-30**

MARK 9:19-29

The father in this story has been watching his son suffer for years, and he has already seen the disciples fail to help. When Jesus asks about the situation, the father makes a desperate request: “If you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus challenges the man's uncertainty, and the father responds with one of the most honest prayers in Scripture: “I believe; help my unbelief!” He doesn't walk away because his faith is imperfect. He brings even his uncertainty to Jesus. That may be the most important lesson of this encounter: Jesus does not require us to arrive with perfect confidence before we come to him. We can bring him the faith we have, along with the doubts and questions that accompany it, and ask him to strengthen what is weak.

1. What parts of your faith are strong, and where do you find yourself struggling to trust God?
2. What do you think the father's prayer, “I believe; help my unbelief,” reveals about the relationship between faith and doubt?

VERSE OF THE SERIES

**“And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?’”
(Luke 9:23-25)**