

So why is Little-faith’s story so colorless, or in other words lacklustre, dull, boring, uninteresting and lacking distinctive character? I would hope that your testimony would not be compared to him. Needless to say, there countless Christians, who are very sincere and good like he was, who have been beaten up, stolen from, left for dead by the devil...all because they got tired, got off track and fell asleep at the wheel so to speak in their spiritual walk with Jesus. They probably are not regular readers of the Word of God, they maybe listen to the preachers and teachers on the TV and radio, but are studious on their own. They have not remained sober and vigilant as **I Peter 5:8** says, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”* He can only start devouring if he has no resistance. Jesus says in **Luke 12:39**; *“But understand this: If the homeowner had known at what hour the thief was coming, **he would not have** let his house be broken into.”* **John 10:10**; *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...”* We’re not sure why Little-faith fell asleep in a place where he shouldn’t have been, but something drew him off the straight and narrow path and he ended up vulnerable to satanic attacks by the devil’s henchmen Faint-heart, Mistrust and Guilt. The thief, like these three, represents what the devil wants to do in your life.

- Becoming **Faint-hearted** will steal your courage and strength for believing and relying in the truth - the Word of God - and the goal is to get you in fear and full of cares.
- **Mistrust** will steal the confidence and assurance in the truth and will try to get you to be doubtful and sceptical.
- **Guilt** – well, it takes away all your rest and peace in the truth and replaces it with fear and anxiety. Guilt will beat you up day in and day out if you allow it. Your mind becomes a playground of dwelling on the past mistakes, missed opportunities, and on and on.

The money stolen from him wasn’t actual money, but is a type and shadow of God’s gifts, the talents that he was responsible for using, primarily growing in faith, growing in the calling and election, and graces that He’s given to each one of His children. The thieves weren’t really interested in the ‘money’ per say, but they wanted to deprive him of these things and by beating him up disable him for life so he couldn’t fulfill God’s beautiful plan and purpose for his life! **Jeremiah 29:11** says; *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* Consequently his faith was diminished, his ministry was diminished and also the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit was diminished. **II Timothy 1:14** says; *“guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”* What’s sad to see is that Little-faith didn’t guard the treasure –his money bag’ and had no resistance to the attack as he was just waking up. When Christians have become lethargic in their walk with Jesus, they become easy prey for the adversary. **II Peter 1:5-11** says; *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and about, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble: for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

So what’s the outcome of the fiasco that Little-faith has gotten himself into? First, he still has his jewels. This represents his salvation, his ticket to Heaven, which by only God’s grace did he manage to retain. They are the true riches! But he was weakened by this assault and his witness and walk were not strong. Sadly, for the remainder of his journey he doesn’t focus on his eternal salvation, his jewels, but on the woes of his battle scars. Like a broken record, he emphasizes only his loss of ‘money’ becoming an object of pity. Like too many Christians he embellishes his struggles and not his hope of eternal life and has lost his powerful testimony. He says and knows he’s going to heaven but can only have a continual pity party with anyone he encounters. He becomes co-dependent on the spiritual life of other Christians and the characteristics of the three thieves who assaulted him, became his characteristics of being faint-hearted, mistrustful and guilty. I’m sure we’ve all known people like him. However, even in ones weaknesses we’re to help bear their burdens, **Romans 15:1**; *“We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”*

What could have saved or delivered Little-faith from this ferocious attack?

- ✓ First; Christian says it well, ‘let us be well harnessed [accoutered with weapons], and especially sure that we have a shield with us.’ Little-faith would have been taught about wearing the full armour of God in [Ephesians 6:12-18](#) like Christian was, but instead of being assertive and skillful in the word, his armour was probably dangling from his waist and chest, his helmet hanging on his back like a Mexican sombrero and his sword was probably dull and stuck in its sheath as it had hardly been used! His armour was not fit tight and secure, ready for battle. Paul delineates especially the need of the shield of faith, ***“...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”***
- ✓ Second; the need of the local church and pastors to guide us. Time and time again it’s mentioned in this book the need of Christian fellowship at church. Don’t think you can weather the Christian life without it. The teaching of the Word of God, communion, fellowship, prayer etc. is vital for our spiritual growth. Also, that King Jesus himself journey’s with us. Like Moses said in **Exodus 33:13-15**; *“ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.’ And He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ Then he said to Him, ‘If your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.”*

Ephesians 6:12-18; *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”*

Are you one who is bemoaning the past and is the broken record of defeat? Has the adversary stolen spiritual life from you because you fell asleep? I believe like Paul says in **Philippians 3:13-14**; *“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* I believe if you truly repent, ask Jesus to forgive you, He will. You will be able to let the past go and move on ahead as a valiant Christian. **I John 5:4** says; *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.”*

