

How much do you trust God?

Romans 4:20 NIV

"Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God."

We strengthen our faith by glorifying God and thinking about his power.

How effectively do you face your challenges?

When God doesn't immediately answer your prayers, do you doubt him?

Do you suffer a long-term life situation that makes you question God's existence or His power?

You may have heard about the pilot for a major airline. He's blind. I won't tell you which airline. People get nervous enough nowadays about flying.

I sympathize with the old fellow who says there are two things he will not do—fly or swim. "I'm not going to do anything," he says, "that when you stop, you die."

Someone asked the blind airplane pilot how he did it. He said, "No big deal—just a little help from my friends and the Good Lord." Then he explained.

"A friend comes by my house in the morning. I walk carefully out to his car and get in. He drops me off at a certain gate at the airport. I know exactly how many steps it is to the door of the airplane. I climb the steps into the airplane. I have memorized the way to the cockpit. When I am seated I start the engines. Then I turn the controls over to my co-pilot to taxi the aircraft onto the runway and head it in the right direction. I tell him to give the controls back to me. He does just that. I open the throttles and get the airplane going down the runway at maximum speed and I wait. Just as soon as the co-pilot yells, 'Good Lord!' I pull back on the controls and lift us into the air."¹



¹ I have forgotten where I first read this story.

**Does your life seem like you’re blindly roaring down a runway not knowing where you’ll end?
Or do you each day trust God?**

Financial advisors advertise their expertise at knowing how to invest your money.

Many young people depend on sports coaches and fitness gurus.

Some heartily empower political parties to guide their and children’s future.

But for long-term and short-term security, nothing compares to trusting God’s word.

Notice Abraham’s compelling example.

He’s the go-to-guy for faith.

Though he momentarily stumbled, Abraham didn’t doubt or waver.

How do you get faith like that?

A physician I consulted years ago told me confidentially about his own minister, who suffered depression, then asked me:

“Shouldn’t his faith help him at times like this?”²

The doc asked a good question, didn’t he? Shouldn’t faith in God help us in tough times?

Consider these situations:

Do news reports of crime fill you with fear and hate?

Or after having made reasonable attempts to protect your family and you, do you leave the rest to God?

Do you trust each day to God?

Or do you spend sleepless nights worrying about your future?

When people seem to treat you unfairly, do you go to them directly and try resolve the matter ultimately trusting God for justice?

Or do you complain to others, then fret and scheme about how to get even?



² I never knew the identity of the doctor’s minister and maintained his confidence.

When your loved ones don't live up to your expectations, do you pray the best for them?

Or do you manipulate, contrive, and force them to conform to your will?

You possibly know of the preparations made by participants in the Indianapolis 500.

- **They race streamlined, lightweight cars.**
- **They design durable engines.**
- **Drivers and pit crews practice for hours.**
- **Some drivers examine every square foot of the track to know potential dangers.**



You can see life's parallels with racing.

- **The need to streamline our lives.**
I've consistently tried to do too many things at a time.

Several boxes and stacks of paper representing unfinished projects in my office upsettingly remind me of my need to simplify.

- **We need to practice our faith.**
- **We must train for godliness.**

That's why the Bible advises: **“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”**³

But how can we “examine the track”?

We don't know what's ahead.

No one knows what a day will bring.

One phone call, slip, or knock on the door can change everything.

But if we follow Christ, we know the One who brings each day.

Consider some advantages Jesus provides that no one else can.

1. God has a plan for your life.

It's not the plan God gave Abraham.

Or the design he has given anyone else.

The Bible shows us that God takes ordinary people and gives them assignments.

He didn't assign any of them the same job—whether David or Sarah, Abraham, or Esther.

When God chose these and other people of the Bible, most were just ordinary folks.

³ 1 Timothy 4:7b NASB

They became extraordinary because they fulfilled the plan God gave them, not because they started great.

Your task may not have the same scope as Abraham’s, David’s or Ruth’s.

On the other hand, your assignment might have immense implications.

Bob, how do I know what God’s plan is for my life?

We’ll never find out what God wants from us by being couch potatoes or ensconced in our easy chairs glued to the TV set, or propped up in front of our computers.

Neither will we find it while welded to our iPad or trying to escape into drink, drugs, or any other diversion.

B) To know God’s plan, we must stay in touch with God.

A woman in hurricane not accustomed to praying, asked God to spare her house and save her. The winds blew down her house and destroyed all she had. She wound



up bruised and battered in the hospital.

In the hospital, she complained that she prayed to God, and it didn’t work.

“Maybe God was busy taking care of his regular customers,” her friend replied.

In a poll taken in Germany some years ago, 68 % said they believed in God, yet 86 % said they prayed to God.

Wherever Abraham went, he worshipped God and stayed in touch with our Creator.

Do you spend significant time each day reading, praying, confessing, praising, thanking, and asking the Lord for His wisdom?

Unless we’re in touch with Him and seeking him, He can’t use us.

He’ll use someone else.

When Queen Esther’s Uncle Mordecai told her how she could help save others, she at first reacted fearfully:

“When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: ‘Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape.

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"⁴

Freely translated, the above passage means: "Esther, God has given you this task. You have an opportunity here. If you don't accomplish it, he'll use somebody else."

Whoever we might be and wherever we are, the Lord expects us to act as His agent and representative for His truth and love.

God wants to use you in his kingdom.

Spend time in His Word, listen to God, praise Him, and pray to Him.

He has plans for you and everyone.



- 2. If you doubt God's power, consider how He's cared for you in the past. Israel made the sad mistake of forgetting.**

They thought about their weakness and the size of their adversaries, not God's power.

When I doubt God, He makes think about how He has cared for my family and me.

In thousands of ways, God cared for us over the years.

It helps me when I reflect on God's reliability.

You can probably remember how in numerous ways He's cared especially for you.

Do you have problems trusting God?

- Spend time with him every day.**
- Consider the ways he's cared for you.**
- Tell others about God's goodness.**
- Thank Him.**
- Honor Him.**

"Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God."

The *New Testament Book of Hebrews* was written to believers who faced tougher times than what the majority American Christians currently face even in the midst of this Covid19 crisis.

⁴ Esther 4:12-14 NIV

Some of them struggled with belief and commitment.

This counsel from *Hebrews* recently spoke strongly to me:

“Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

For, ‘In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay’ And, ‘But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.’ **But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.**”⁵

I pray that all of us will stand gratefully honoring God with people of faith and encourage one another in Jesus’ name.



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⁵ Hebrews 10:32-39 NIV