

# The Blessings of a Strong Faith

It is only natural for a person to desire peace and ease in life. But, in accord with Murphy's Law, life seldom happens that way. John F. Kennedy said, "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men." Helen Keller said, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." James said, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3).

**A Strong faith provides the power to face the day.** The road of life is filled with potholes. No one can dodge them all. Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." When the day is dark, and the storm clouds thick, a strong faith enables a person to take hold of the words, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b). Paul trusted in those words: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

**A Strong faith enables a person to overcome sin.** John wrote, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4). The word "world" is used to describe all the evil influences and temptations that are in the world. Faith will enable a person to overcome them all. **A strong faith will defeat the prince of darkness.** "Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16). When Jesus was tempted of the devil He repeatedly defended Himself by His whole-hearted trust in God's word (Matthew 4:1-10). He soundly defeated Satan.

**A strong faith will provide peace, hope and joy.** "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:1-4).

**A Strong faith is attainable by all.** You do not have to have a certain body style, or belong to a particular social group, or graduate from a certain school in order to have a strong faith. Paul said, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10). Strong faith is not limited to preachers and elders. Paul's words are meant for all who are called "brethren."

A strong faith can only be attained by reading and studying the word of God. Paul said, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Do you desire to have a stronger faith? It is simple. Spend more time reading and studying the book that was given by God for that very purpose—the Bible.

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).

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