

## HOW MUCH FAITH DOES IT TAKE?

Scripture used: [1 John 5:4 \(NKJV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

We were blessed this week to have a special guest deliver this week's message: Pastor Tony Williams, a longtime friend to Pastor Hurmon and NBCC. With everything going on in the world, we are all tempted to despair at times. Even the strongest of us can't take the layers upon layers of stress: the pandemic; steep inflation; economic uncertainty; war; social unrest; and toxic politics. It feels like it is all too much for us to handle, and yet God calls us to be a light unto the world. In these desperate times, what is it that keeps us motivated? It is our faith. Faith in "the victory that has overcome the world," as it says in this week's scripture. This is the faith that enables us to see what others cannot see, and to do what others cannot do, as it says in [Hebrews 11:1-3 \(NKJV\)](#). What is this faith based on? Jesus, the Son of God who already took sin and death, and defeated them. It is Jesus' victory that earns each of us a place in His kingdom despite our sins. That is why we place our faith in Him, and why the Bible says "the just shall live by faith." Faith allows us to access God and have a relationship with Him, which is the greatest blessing. But how much faith does it take?

### KEY POINTS

1. **We need enough faith to obey.** In [Luke 5:5 \(NKJV\)](#), we read about the story of Simon Peter, who had been fishing all night without catching anything. Jesus asked him to cast his net on the other side of the boat. At this moment, Simon Peter had a choice: he could obey the command of his teacher; or he could disobey, pointing out that just throwing the net on the other side wasn't going to make a difference. Simon Peter obeyed, and thanks to his obedience the net was so full of fish that he needed help just to draw it out of the water!
2. **We need enough faith to pray.** In [Acts 12:1-17 \(NKJV\)](#), we read about the story of Peter, who had been imprisoned by King Herod. Everyone assumed he would be tortured and killed, but many Christians still gathered to pray for him. After Peter was miraculously freed by an angel, he made his way to the house where all the Christians were praying. They were so surprised at the power of their faith that at first they didn't believe the girl Rhoda who tried to explain that Peter was actually at the door waiting to be let in!
3. **We need enough faith to stay.** We all face challenging times and challenging people (Pastor Tony referenced the extraordinary account of the Syrophenician woman in [Mark 7:24-30](#)). We are tempted to despair and to pray to God for a way out. But sometimes that is not His path for us. Sometimes we have to stay in a tough spot, or after being rejected, or in any other difficulty. We can accelerate the purposes and will of God by enduring in such situations. That is a powerful form of faith, and a reminder that God can turn around any situation as it says in [Romans 8:28 \(NKJV\)](#).
4. **We need enough faith to say.** [Matthew 14:22-33](#) is the account of Peter walking on the water. One of the important things we learn is that Jesus responds when we call out for help! The hardest thing for some of us is just talking to God. We need to trust in Him enough to take our problems directly to him. We can start by worshiping Him and by acknowledging His goodness, then we can ask Him for help. It's easier to turn inward, or to others, but remember that a little bit from God is worth infinitely more than a lot from flawed and broken people. As we speak to Him, we're reminded of the incredible promise from [1 John 4:4 \(NKJV\)](#): "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We don't need a lot of faith. Quantity is not what matters, as Jesus described in the parable of the mustard seed. What matters is quality. We need a living faith that matches our living God. In practice, that means a faith that helps us to obey, to pray, to stay, and to say. What does "faith" mean to you?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - What area of your faith are you challenged in (to obey, pray, stay or say?) Where do you feel like you are close to giving up? Have you taken this aspect of your life to God in prayer? What would it mean for you to be faithful in that particular part of your life? What seasons of your life did your faith grow the most? Why? Is your faith growing or shrinking right now?
- 3) **DO** - Whatever is weighing on you right now, take this opportunity to demonstrate that your faith is sufficient. All you need is enough faith to obey, pray, stay, and say. Ask God to reveal at least one of these things to do, and the courage to act on it. Join us next Sunday for worship!