

## What to Do When Your Faith Is Struggling

Dr. John Carmichael

[Rom 14:1 NASB95] 1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, [but] not for [the purpose of] passing judgment on his opinions.

- **People can have genuine faith in Jesus and still be growing in their faith for healing.**
- We often assume faith is an all-or-nothing proposition. Either we have faith or we do not. Either we are strong or we are weak.
- Yet Scripture paints a very different picture.
- Peter walked on water and then sank. The disciples cast out demons but sometimes struggled with unbelief. Abraham believed God for a son but stumbled along the journey. The Roman centurion had great faith. The disciples were repeatedly called people of little faith.
- Faith has levels. Faith has areas.
- You may have tremendous faith for healing but struggle with finances. Someone else may trust God completely for provision but wrestle with fear. Another believer may have faith to lead a ministry but struggle trusting God in personal relationships.
- The question is not whether we have perfect faith. The question is: What do we do when we discover our faith is weak?
- Romans 14 gives us five powerful principles.

**How should believers respond when they discover that their faith is strong in some areas but weak in others?**

**Romans 14 shows us five ways to respond when our faith for healing, provision, or breakthrough is not yet where we want it to be.**

### **I. Accept yourself as God has accepted you.**

- a. [Rom 14:1 NASB95] 1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, [but] not for [the purpose of] passing judgment on his opinions. (GR: calculations, thoughts)
- b. We are to accept the one (others and ourselves) in this area. Sometimes we condemn ourselves and others for weak faith.
- c. Many believers who need healing become discouraged because they assume their continued symptoms mean they have failed God.
- d. [Rom 14:3 NASB95] 3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.
- e. The enemy says: "If you really had faith, you'd already be healed."
- f. God says: "I have accepted you, and I am still working in you."
- g. Allow God to remove the fear of rejection and condemnation that you do not have a perfect faith.

### **II. Acknowledge there are levels and areas of faith.**

- a. [Rom 14:1 NASB95] 1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, [but] not for [the purpose of] passing judgment on his opinions.
- b. Some people have strong faith for salvation but weak faith for healing. Others have strong faith for healing but weak faith for finances. Faith develops in specific areas.
- c. Faith is not one-size fits all. It is not an all or nothing.
- d. Jesus
  - i. [Mat 16:8-9 NASB95] 8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? 9 "Do you not

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yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets [full] you picked up?

- ii. [Mat 6:30 NASB95] 30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is [alive] today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, [will He] not much more [clothe] you? You of little faith!
- iii. [Mat 8:10 NASB95] 10 Now when Jesus heard [this,] He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.
- iv. [Mat 15:28 NASB95] 28 Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.
- e. Other NT writers
  - i. [2Th 1:3 NASB95] 3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is [only] fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows [ever] greater;
  - ii. [Act 16:5 NASB95] 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.
- f. If there is great faith, there must also be smaller faith. Healing faith grows exactly like every other kind of faith.
- g. What areas of faith are you strong in? What areas of faith are you weak in?

### III. Adopt a proper perspective of what God is doing in you (others).

- a. [Rom 14:17-18 NASB95] 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who in this [way] serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.
- b. We need a perspective shift to not destroy what God is doing in our lives.
- c. [Rom 14:15 NASB95] 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.
- d. When we pigeon-hole faith into an all or nothing mentality, then condemn ourselves (or others) we can destroy people.
- e. See a bigger picture. We are not finished yet. We are growing. There are weightier matters (Matthew 23:23)
- f. Keep perspective.

### IV. Act in the faith you have only.

- a. [Rom 14:23 NASB95] 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because [his eating is] not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
- b. This applies to the current context but as we see from Jesus' words, this applies to other places.
- c. Some have asked about whether or not to get surgery. Do it or do not do it in faith.
- d. [Mar 6:5-6 NASB95] 5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching.
- e. What Jesus did was based on their level of faith.
- f. Learn to live by faith. Act on the faith you have not someone else's. Do not force someone to walk in faith they do not have either.

### V. Acquire what you need to grow in faith.

- a. [Rom 16:25-27 NASB95] 25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been

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made known to all the nations, [leading] to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

- b. These verses end this chapter (the book in some cases)
  - c. The fact that we have levels or areas means we can grow.
  - d. [Rom 12:3 NASB95] 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
  - e. But as a Christian full of faith, God doesn't want you to become stagnant. He wants you to GROW in Him!
  - f. [Rom 1:17 NASB95] 17 For in it [the] righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS [man] SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
  - g. Three Ways
    - i. Word - [Rom 10:17 NASB95] 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
    - ii. Pray in Spirit - [Jde 1:20 NASB95] 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
    - iii. Fast - [Mat 17:21 NASB95] 21 ["But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."]
  - h. Start actively strengthening your faith in areas. Biblically, faith grows as we act. The woman with the issue of blood acted. Blind Bartimaeus acted. The lepers acted. Peter stepped out of the boat before his faith was perfected.
  - i. Healing faith is exercised faith.
- **God does not reject us because our faith is weak in certain areas; He accepts us, works with us, and helps us grow from faith to faith.**