

Session 5. Exercising Faith

Message Outline

1. **Your faith can grow.**
2. **Your faith will be challenged.**
 - a) *When you lose a friend.*
 - b) *When you face an overwhelming task.*
 - c) *When you have been involved in a great work.*
 - d) *When you face relentless opposition.*
 - e) *When evil and injustice abound.*
 - f) *When there is no obvious explanation.*
 - g) *When you are tired of the battle.*
3. **Faith is manual, not automatic.**

Discussion Questions

1. What has tested your faith in the past? How did you move forward?
2. Reflect on this quote from Charles Bridges. How have you seen this proved true?
"All our failures may be ultimately traced to a defect in faith. We ask but for little, we expect but little, we are satisfied with little; and therefore we gain and do but little. The main difficulty, therefore, is not in our work, but in ourselves; in the conflict with our own unbelief."
3. Which of the seven situations in which your faith will be challenged can you relate to the most?
4. If you have had major battles for faith, what has helped you persevere through seasons of darkness? If not, what will you do in the future?
5. When are you tempted to think faith is automatic, not manual? Why is that distinction so helpful?
6. What are the circumstances in your life and ministry where you need to exercise faith today?

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