

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# What Are the Things About Faith You Can Count On?

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I John 4:7-15

**1 What are the things about faith you can count on?**

**Let's look at what our scripture today says about this and then I will point out some things that will help you grasp this especially important topic. 2**

**From First John, chapter 5, verses 1 through 12, we read, Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 3**

**This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify:**

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**<sup>1</sup> | John 5:1-5.**

**the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.<sup>2</sup><sub>4</sub>**

**Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.<sup>3</sup><sub>5</sub>**

**You use faith all the time. Faith is trust. You have faith when you get into a taxi, board a bus, get on a plane. You commit your life to complete strangers!**

**Have you ever driven on a narrow two-lane highway behind a semi truck? You are ascending a hill and you can't see in front of the truck. However, the courteous**

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<sup>2</sup> | John 5:6-9.

<sup>3</sup> | John 5:10-12.

truck driver motions for you to pass him and you do. Since he can see ahead from his high vantage point you trust that he knows you can pass around him safely. You put your life in his hands. You trust him! <sup>6</sup>

A popular theology today is that God gives some people faith through a supernatural experience. This faith is based on the emotional experience you have. <sup>7</sup>

But, Romans, chapter 10, verse 17 says that faith comes by the word of God! **Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**

When General George B. McClellan was commissioned Commander of the Union Army during the Civil War, he wrote this to his wife, "I don't feel any different than I did yesterday. Indeed, I have not yet put on my new uniform. I am sure, however, that I am in command of the Union Army because President Lincoln's order to that effect now lies before me."

Accepting the authoritative word of his Commander in Chief, McClellan was confident of his position. <sup>4</sup>

You can trust God's word as the basis of your faith! If the Bible says it, that's good enough. The emotional part comes later. <sup>8</sup>

What are some of the things about faith you can count on? <sup>9</sup>

## I. Faith Has a Definite Power - v1-5

Faith has a definite power. <sup>10</sup>

**This power is demonstrated through our love!**

Verses 1 through 3, **This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome .**

**. . . <sup>11</sup> We love God by obeying Him. His command is that we love others.**

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<sup>4</sup> | John 5:1-12, Our Daily Bread.

**Elizabeth Elliot's husband was murdered in the jungles of Ecuador, trying to evangelize the Auca Indians. She, eventually, took his place. She, and her children, moved to the Auca villages and won them to the Lord.**

**David Wilkerson left his church in a neighboring state to evangelize the teen gangs of New York City. Not only did he succeed there but established the nationwide ministry of Teen Challenge! <sup>12</sup>**

**Love is not burdensome because you have the help of the Holy Spirit! <sup>13</sup> Galatians, chapter 5, verse 22, **The fruit of the Spirit is love . . . <sup>14</sup> The Lord said, **For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.** <sup>5</sup> <sup>15</sup>****

**This power can be experienced when you are tempted by the world!**

**Verses 4 and 5, **And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world,****

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 11:30.

**even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world?  
Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.** <sup>16</sup>

**World** <sup>6</sup> here, means secular society. It is the opposite of God's world view and values. We get our English word "cosmetics" from this term. <sup>17</sup> Romans, chapter 12, verse 2, tells you to overcome the world by the renewing of your mind! <sup>7</sup> <sup>18</sup>

How did the Lord use God's word when He was tempted? <sup>8</sup> He overcame His temptations by quoting scripture that He had memorized! <sup>19</sup>

When the tempter told Jesus to satisfy His hunger after fasting forty days, He answered, "**It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**" This was a quotation from Deuteronomy, chapter 8, verse 3! <sup>20</sup>

When the tempter told Him to put Himself in physical danger to fulfill the prophesy that God would

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<sup>6</sup> κόσμος.

<sup>7</sup> Romans 12:2 - Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 4:3-4, 6-7 & 9-10.

immediately send angels to His rescue, He answered, **“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”** This was a quotation from Deuteronomy, chapter 6, verse 16! <sup>21</sup>

When the tempter told Jesus He could have political power and absolute authority over the whole world if He decided to forsake God and worship Satan, he responded with, **For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”** This was a quote from Deuteronomy, chapter 6, verse 13! <sup>22</sup>

In Matthew, chapter 4, verse 10, the Lord demanded, **Away from me, Satan! Satan left Him. You have the same power!** <sup>23</sup>

The second thing about faith you can count on is . . .



## II. Faith Has a Definite Object - v6-8

Faith has a definite object! <sup>24</sup>

**Lord Jesus was an historical person.** He really existed! Verse 6, **This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.** <sup>25</sup>

He came by **water**. <sup>26</sup> In John's biblical books, except for walking on water and drinking it, "water" always refers to ceremonial cleansing and baptism. His baptism began His redemptive ministry! <sup>27</sup>

He came by **blood**. <sup>28</sup> The Lord's crucifixion ended His earthly ministry and completed His earthly mission. <sup>29</sup>

**Our faith is based upon concrete evidence.** Verses 7 and 8, **For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.**

This evidence is presented to us in three ways. <sup>30</sup>

**The evidence of the Holy Spirit giving verbal testimony.** <sup>31</sup>

At the Lord's baptism He said, **This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**<sup>9</sup><sub>32</sub>

At the Lord's transfiguration He said, **This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.**<sup>10</sup><sub>33</sub>

Before the Greeks in Jerusalem He said, **"Father, glorify your name!"** Then a voice came from heaven, **"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."**<sup>11</sup><sub>34</sub>

**The evidence of the water** in that the Lord's baptism began His earthly ministry of teaching, miracles and example.<sub>35</sub>

**The evidence of the blood** in that the Lord's crucifixion began His ministry of redemption, intercession and indwelling presence.<sub>36</sub>

**The third thing about faith you can count on is . . .**

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<sup>9</sup> Matthew 3:17.

<sup>10</sup> Luke 9:35.

<sup>11</sup> John 12:28.

### III. Faith Has a Definite Message - v9-12

Faith has a definite message! 37

**The witness of God is superior to the witness of man.**

Verse 9, **We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.** 38

There is the witness of the Holy Spirit Who instructs you through the word and empowers you with His indwelling presence. 39

There is the witness of the water. Your Christian baptism begins God's power to transform a sinner into a saint. That's the greatest miracle of all! 40

There is the witness of the blood. The Lord's Supper, the memorial of the crucifixion, constantly reminds you of the extent of His love; how far He was willing to go to have you. 41

**The content of this witness;** eternal life comes only through Lord Jesus! 42

**You are confronted with the Lord's statement, **I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** <sup>12</sup> <sub>43</sub>**

**If you have accepted Lord Jesus as savior, you have eternal life! <sup>13</sup> <sub>44</sub> If you have rejected the Lord you have called God a liar! <sup>14</sup> <sub>45</sub>**

**Test yourself! First Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 5, **Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test!** <sub>46</sub>**

**Faith is very definite! You can be sure if you have it!**

**It isn't based upon your feelings. it's based upon the word of God! You can't be half saved and half lost.**

**Faith means surrendering to His Lordship!**

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<sup>12</sup> John 14:6.

<sup>13</sup> I John 5:12 - He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>14</sup> I John 5:10 - Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar .

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**