

I HAVE FAITH FOR THIS!

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Faith And Gratitude

(Part 8 of a 8 part series)

Do you have a story or testimony to share? Email us at stories@hillsong.co.za

INTRODUCTION

In a world brimming with uncertainty and challenges, faith becomes our anchor and guide. Throughout this series, we will explore the profound impact of understanding what faith is, why it is important and how we can operate in it. Drawing inspiration from scripture and the powerful biblical stories, personal testimonies, and practical teachings, together, we will delve into what it means to possess unwavering faith, how to cultivate it in the face of adversity, and the extraordinary outcomes that faith can bring.

Join us as we embark on this spiritual journey, deepening our trust in God's promises and discovering the boundless possibilities that arise when we declare, "**I have faith for this.**"

We believe this series will:

- Equip our church to live lives of great faith.
 - Teach our church how faith is the currency of the Kingdom of God.
 - Empower people to activate faith in their lives.
 - Challenge people to live expectant for the blessing, favour and power of Jesus in every area of their lives.
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KEY VERSE

Colossians 2:7 (GW): "Sink your roots in him and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith that you were taught, and overflow with thanksgiving."

DISCOVERY

Here Paul encourages the believers in Colossae to deepen their relationship with Christ, so to be built up in Him. This rootedness in Christ strengthens our faith and overflows in gratitude. He uses the metaphor of roots sinking deep into the soil to describe how our faith should be grounded in Jesus. As we grow in our faith, we are built up and strengthened by the teachings we have received. This deep, strong faith naturally leads to an overflow of gratitude. This gratitude is not just an occasional feeling but a continual state of thankfulness that permeates our lives. As we explore this scripture together, we will discover how a deep faith in Christ fosters a heart of thankfulness and how gratitude, in turn, reinforces our faith.

DISCUSSION

Starting Question:

What are some things that you have had your life 'rooted' in, that you now realize, having your life 'rooted' in faith is a more fruitful way to go?

Exploring Questions:

Q1: Colossians 2:7 (GW): "Sink your roots in him and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith that you were taught, and overflow with thanksgiving."

Gratitude is more than just saying thank you; it is an **attitude of the heart** that recognizes and appreciates God's goodness and grace in our lives. As believers, gratitude is important because it acknowledges God's work in our lives and deepens our relationship with Him.

How do you define gratitude, and why do you think it is important in the life of a believer?

Q2: John 15:5 (GW): "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Sinking our roots in Christ means remaining in Him and **drawing our strength and sustenance from Him**. Just as branches cannot thrive without the vine, we cannot grow in faith without a deep, abiding connection to Jesus.

What does it mean to "sink your roots in him and build on him"?

Q3: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (GW): "Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this."

When our faith is strong and we trust in God's sovereignty and goodness, we can be thankful in all circumstances. Gratitude flows naturally from a heart that is confident in God's love and provision, regardless of the situation.

How can a strong faith lead to an overflow of thanksgiving?

Q4: Philippians 4:6-7 (GW): "Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus."

Gratitude shifts our focus from our problems to God's blessings. When we practice thankfulness, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and past provision, **which strengthens our faith and gives us peace**.

In what ways can gratitude strengthen our faith?

Action Question:

Psalms 100:4 (GW): "Enter his gates with a song of thanksgiving. Come into his courtyards with a song of praise. Give thanks to him; praise his name."

Cultivating a heart of gratitude involves intentionally recognizing and thanking God for His blessings.

Whether through journaling, prayer, or sharing with others, expressing thankfulness helps to embed gratitude in our daily lives.

What is one practical way you can cultivate a heart of gratitude this week?

DEVOTION

The relationship between faith and gratitude is symbiotic; as our faith deepens, our gratitude overflows, and as we practice gratitude, our faith is strengthened. Colossians 2:7 encourages us to root ourselves in Christ, be built up in Him, and let our lives be characterized by thankfulness.

This week, make a conscious effort to practice gratitude.

Start a gratitude journal where you write down things you are thankful for each day.

Share one of these reflections with your group and pray for one another, asking God to help you grow in both faith and gratitude.