

The Power of Imperfect Faith: A Faith That Brings God's Presence Near

October 5, 2025

Key Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 4:7 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."
- Mark 9:17-24 The father with wavering faith: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
- Mark 1:40-42 The leper with frail faith: "If you are willing, you can make me clean."
- Mark 5:25–34 The woman with hidden faith: "If I can just touch the fringe of His cloak."
- Mark 10:46-52 The blind man with raw faith who cried out all the more when others told him to be quiet.
- Mark 2:1–12 The paralytic healed through his friends' borrowed faith.

Start Talking

- What's something fragile you own that still has great value to you?
- Have you ever seen something that was broken and thought it was still so beautiful?

Start Thinking

- When has your faith felt cracked, fragile, or contradictory? How did God meet you in that season?
- Which of the five examples from Mark's Gospel (father, leper, woman, the blind man, friends of the paralytic) do you relate to most and why?

Start Sharing

- How does the way our culture talks about weakness, doubt, or faith differ from the way Jesus modeled it?
- In what ways do God's people sometimes shame doubt or frailty, and how can we instead create space for intimacy with God?
- Who in your life might need to be "carried" by the borrowed faith of others right now? How could your group help shoulder that?

Start Praying

Jesus, thank You that You draw near even when our faith is imperfect. Thank You for meeting us in our wavering, frail, hidden, raw, and sometimes borrowed faith. Holy Spirit, help us to risk drawing near and bring you our lives of clay. Help us to discover or rediscover Your lavish love. Fill our weakness with Your presence and shine through our cracks so that others may see Your glory. Amen.

Start Doing

- What's one area in your life where your faith feels weak or uncertain that you are willing to bring to Jesus?
- Who in your life do you sense God might be asking you to help 'carry' this week? What's one way you can send encouragement, pray with them, or help meet a practical need?