

Stages of Faith

Intuitive

Day 1: Embracing Childlike Faith

Reading: Matthew 18:1-5, Mark 10:13-16

Jesus taught that we must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. This doesn't mean being childish, but rather embracing the pure, trusting faith of a child. Reflect on your early experiences with faith. How did you first encounter God's love? Consider how you can recapture that sense of wonder and trust in your relationship with God today. Ask yourself: Am I approaching God with the openness and dependency of a child? How can I cultivate a more trusting faith in my daily life?

Day 2: Growing Beyond Simplistic Faith

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Hebrews 5:12-14

While childlike faith is beautiful, God desires us to mature spiritually. Paul speaks of moving from spiritual milk to solid food. Consider the areas in your faith life where you may still be relying on "milk" - perhaps oversimplified understandings of God or faith that no longer satisfy your spiritual hunger. How can you challenge yourself to dig deeper into God's word and develop a more nuanced understanding of your faith? Reflect on how your faith has evolved over time and pray for wisdom to continue growing.

Day 3: Wrestling with Doubt and Questions

Reading: Mark 9:14-24, John 20:24-29

Doubt is not the opposite of faith, but often a pathway to deeper faith. The father in Mark's gospel cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" and Thomas needed to see to believe. God welcomes our honest questions and struggles. What doubts or questions are you wrestling with in your faith journey? Bring these before God in prayer, asking for wisdom and understanding. Remember that seeking answers can lead to spiritual growth. How might your current doubts actually be invitations to a more mature faith?

Day 4: Faith in the Midst of Suffering

Reading: Romans 5:1-5, James 1:2-4

The idea that faith guarantees an easy life is a misconception. Scripture teaches that suffering can produce perseverance, character, and hope. Reflect on times of hardship in your life. How has God been present in those moments? Consider how these experiences have shaped your faith and character. Pray for the strength to trust God even in difficult times, knowing that He can work all things for good. How can you support others who are going through trials, sharing the hope you've found in Christ?

Day 5: Living Out a Mature Faith

Reading: James 2:14-26, Galatians 5:22-26

A mature faith is not just about what we believe, but how we live. James emphasizes that faith without works is dead, while Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit that should be evident in a believer's life. Examine your own life - how is your faith being expressed in tangible ways? Are you seeing growth in love, joy, peace, and other spiritual fruits? Identify one specific way you can put your faith into action today, whether through an act of service, extending forgiveness, or sharing God's love with someone. Pray for God's help in living out your faith more fully each day.