



BIG FAITH, BALANCED FAITH
Part One: Increasing Your Faith
 Pastor David Cannistraci ♦ August 24, 2008

“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.” Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

► Our faith grows _____ as we follow Christ, consistently applying His _____ to our lives.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A _____

The apostles said to the Lord, “Show us how to increase our faith.” The Lord answered, “If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘May you be uprooted and thrown into the sea,’ and it would obey you!” Luke 17:5-6 (NLT)

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more...”
 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

FIVE LEVELS OF _____ IN THE BIBLE:

1. _____ Faith

Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?” Matthew 16:8 (NIV)

(See also Matthew 14:31)

2. _____ Faith

“Abraham’s faith never became weak, not even when...he knew that he was almost dead and that his wife Sarah could not have children.”
 Romans 4:19 (CEV)

(See also Rom. 14:1 and 1 Thessalonians 3:10)

Increasing (Cont’d)

3. _____ Faith

“[Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God...” Romans 4:20 (KJV)

(See also 1 Peter 5:9)

4. _____ Faith

[Jesus] was astonished and said to those following him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.”
 Matthew 8:10 (NIV)

(See also Matt. 15:28 and Luke 7:9)

5. _____ Faith

“Do you see that faith was working together with [Abraham’s] works, and by works faith was made perfect?” James 2:22 (NKJV)

“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

FATHER GOD, I thank you that I can live by faith. Today I make a decision to follow Jesus Christ and obey the Word of God. I will not give up or give in. Bless me with big faith, and help me to grow strong in hard times. In Christ’s Name, AMEN

RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK’S SMALL GROUPS

Icebreaker: Has anyone ever believed for something big? What?

Scripture Focus: Let each member share a verse from this teaching-- one that spoke to them personally. What does it mean to them?

Discussion Focus: What is our part in developing increased faith?

Prayer Focus: Pray for those in your group who face obstacles

REMEMBER to give an offering for the needy in your group this week, for God has promised us a rich reward (Det. 15:11, Psalm 41:1)