



Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith #1 :: Big Faith {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you? Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you knew with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage it for good. In other words, imagine what it would be like to have PERFECT faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin by reading the story of the Centurion with the sick servant in Matthew 8:5-10.

1. Do you know people whose faith in God is so strong that at times you would describe it as *amazing*? What is it about them that makes you think their confidence in God is so strong?
2. How would you describe the relationship between *obedience* and *trust*?
3. As you think back on your childhood, how was the *obedience/trust* relationship manifested in your home? Did you trust your parents? How did that impact your response to their authority?
4. What is more important in a relationship: *trust* or *obedience*? Answer this question within the context of several types of relationships. If you are a parent, how would you answer this question as it relates to your children? What about within the context of marriage?
5. Andy listed five ingredients to developing BIG faith. Which ones do you remember? Of these five, which one has made the biggest difference in your confidence in God? Why?
6. Has there ever been a time in your life when your confidence in God—your faith—hit a really low point? Would you be willing to share that story with your group? If so, describe the events surrounding your loss of faith, as well as what happened that helped you regain it.
7. Based on this discussion, what advice would you give a friend who had lost faith or who would describe his or her faith as weak?
8. Based on your personal experience, if a close friend were to share with you that he was at one time a person with great faith in God, but had lost his faith, what questions would you ask? What advice would you give?



MOVING FORWARD

Sermons come in all shapes and sizes. But if you listen closely, you'll hear God saying the same thing in most sermons—*trust me*. That's not to say that the message in the Bible is shallow and simplistic. Rather, in all the ways that you could respond to God, the most important thing that God is asking you to do is to trust him. When things are going well, it doesn't require a lot of faith to trust God. But when life turns messy, is your faith leading you to depend on God, or do you put your trust in something else?

In the next several weeks, we'll discuss five catalysts that God uses to build that kind of faith. For this week, reflect on what have been the most faith-building events/relationships in your life. How have these things affected your confidence in God?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*When Jesus heard this, he was **amazed** and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."*

Matthew 8:10