

CASTING DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS

What You Think On Affects The Level Of Your Faith

- I. **Faith is quantifiable and can vary in degree or strength from person to person, from situation to situation-*Rm4:18***
Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹ And being not weak (without strength) in faith, he considered (fix eyes or mind upon) not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: ²⁰ He staggered (doubt, waver) not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform
- A. **Faith is confidence-*Hb11:1***-Faith is the substance (confidence) of things hoped, the evidence (conviction) of things not seen; *Mk4:40-AM-Do you still have no faith and confidence in me; David-**1Sam17**, 3 Hebrews-**Dan3**, Woman-**Mk5***
- B. **From situation to situation the level of your faith or confidence can vary**
- C. **One mistake many make when it comes to faith is pretending like it isn't measurable-All faith is not faith, all faith is not equal-*Mt14:31***-Ye of little faith; (lacking confidence, trusting to little), why did you doubt; *Mt15:28*-Woman great (big, strong) is thy faith
- D. **Another mistake made when it comes to faith is being offended at the idea that the level of faith can affect the outcome of a situation-*Mt14:31***-O ye of little faith; why did you doubt? *Mt17:20*-Because of your unbelief (want or weakness of faith); *Mt13:58*-Because of their unbelief; *Mk5:34*-Thy faith has made thee whole; *Nm13*-Unbelief kept one out, faith took one in
- II. **What you think on, you feed on and this affects strength of your faith, the level of your confidence**
- A. **Abraham was strong in faith-*Rm4:18-21***
1. **This is strong faith-He hoped against hope, he staggered not, he was fully persuaded-*Rm4:18-AC***-Human reason for hope being gone, hoped in faith; *CEV*-When it all seemed hopeless, Abraham still had faith; *MS*-When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what do said he would do; *TP*-Against all odds, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise and expected God to fulfill it
 2. **Why was Abraham strong in faith?-Did God just decided to give him a lot of faith? NO!**
 3. **God is not the one determining the level of your faith-If that was so He'd be wrong to correct anybody of unbelief**
 4. **The are principles that govern the strength of your faith-Violate those principles and faith will be weak**
- B. **One reason he was strong in faith because he guarded his thought life-He staggered not, because he considered not**
1. **There thoughts he would not think on-There were things he wouldn't consider, places he wouldn't let his mind go**
- C. **The thoughts we think on affects our faith, our confidence-*Lam3:21-KJ***-This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope (trust); *Lam3:17-CEV*-I cannot find peace or remember happiness. 18 I tell myself, "I am finished! I can't count on the LORD to do anything for me." 19 Just thinking of my troubles and my lonely wandering makes me miserable. 20 That's all I ever think about, and I am depressed. 21 Then I remember something that fills me with hope. 22 The LORD's kindness never fails! If he had not been merciful, we would have been destroyed. 23 The LORD can always be trusted to show mercy each morning. 24 Deep in my heart I say, "The LORD is all I need; I can depend on him!" 25 The LORD is kind to everyone who trusts and obeys him
- D. **Peter did the opposite of what Abraham did and lost his faith because of where he let his mind go-*Mt14:24***-The ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. ²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. ²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw (to turn thoughts to, direct mind to, consider) the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
1. **What he did in his thought life cost him his faith and victory-He considered, what Abraham wouldn't consider**
- E. **It is a spiritual impossibility to have strong faith and a poorly guarded thought life-If we don't get good at guarding our minds and casting down wrong thoughts living by faith is an impossibility**
1. **Show me someone strong in faith, I'll show you someone who has learned the art of casting down wrong thoughts**

- F. Why do people lack faith or confidence?-It is because they violate the principles that govern it; They are not a pathetic excuse for a Christian, but rather the enemy came against them and brought thoughts to them and they thought on what they should have cast down and it robbed them of their faith – This can happen to anybody

III. One big reason we are told to guard our minds above all else is because our faith is on the line

- A. Our faith is precious- 1Pt1:7-CEB-Your faith is more valuable than gold; *ERV*-These troubled test your faith and prove that it is pure. And such faith is worth more than gold.
1. Faith in God is our only hope in this life- 1Jn5:4-*Whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith; Ep6:16*-Above all taking the shield of faith where with you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked; *Pr30:5*-He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him
 2. If we lose our faith (confidence) that it is absolutely it for us-We have no way to win, we have no shield
 3. Anything that is a threat to my faith is a threat to my life
- B. Wrong thoughts threaten my faith and therefore threaten my life
1. You won't get far with little faith-Peter had little faith and almost drowned
 2. It happened so quickly to Peter-He took a wrong thought lost his faith and confidence and fell-*Mt14*
 3. It all started with him entertaining a thought he should have cast down
 4. We must be quick to cast down wrong thoughts
- C. Thinking on wrong thoughts is expensive-It cost you're your faith
- D. One key to Joshua's success was what he thought on- Js1:8-*This book of the law shalt not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate (ponder-weigh in the mind) therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success*
1. Abraham wouldn't consider it-He just wouldn't do it and instead considered so shall thy seed be
 2. If you don't purposely set your mind on the right things you'll think wrong things