



IDEA: Faith is a SPIRIT we can ALL have, that should INVADE & PERVADE everything (2 Corinthians 4:13-14).

- * Faith should sink DEEP, grow STRONG & spread WIDE.
 - * Faith should be at work in our THOUGHTS, heard in our WORDS & seen in our ACTIONS.
 - * Faith is a spirit that's CAUGHT, TRANSFERRED & GROWS.
 - * Faith is a SPIRIT we carry, a LIFESTYLE we live & a CHARACTERISTIC we should be known for.
- *What does the word 'faith' mean to you? Would you say your faith is strong? Would you say you carried the 'Spirit of Faith'?*

Jesus EXEMPLIFIED the Spirit of Faith every day. Throughout the Gospels we see people who CAUGHT the Spirit of Faith. Repeatedly Jesus COMMENDED the Spirit of Faith. He made it abundantly CLEAR we need to be PEOPLE of faith. The stand-out characteristic in the book of Acts was their strikingly STRONG & BOLD faith.

- Finally, the apostles taught that we should LIVE by faith.
- *How did Jesus exemplify the Spirit of Faith? Why was faith the quality He always commended? (Not their holiness or keenness or kindness)*
- *Which Biblical character stands out for you as a hero of faith? What was it about him/her that you admire?*
- *When you think about the early church, what was so striking about their bold faith?*

WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT OF FAITH LOOK LIKE?

1. The Spirit of Faith says, My God is BIGGER, STRONGER, WISER, GREATER.
 - * Strong faith is rooted in knowing WHO GOD IS, what He's DONE IN THE PAST & promised to DO IN THE FUTURE.

→ *"God's omnipotence underpins everything." Discuss!*
2. The Spirit of Faith says, I'm in a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP with the creator of the universe, sealed with His own shed blood & that covenant CANNOT BE BROKEN in any way under any circumstances.

→ *What is a covenant? Why is your covenant relationship with God so important? What does it mean to say that the covenant 'cannot be broken'?*
3. The Spirit of Faith says, If God SAYS it, that's GOOD ENOUGH for me
 - * We can stand on God's PROMISES with complete CONFIDENCE, because the full weight of heaven is behind it (Jeremiah 1:12).

→ *If God's Word is unbreakable & unshakeable, does that not give us the right to be very bold indeed?*

→ *If we can trust God with everything and if Isaiah 55:8-9 is true, what does that do to our doubts, unbelief and unanswered questions?*

4. The Spirit of Faith says, I'm not moved by what I can SEE; I'm only moved by what the WORD OF GOD SAYS (2 Corinthians 5:7).
 - * Makes a life-changing SWITCH and chooses to TRUST God rather than FEELINGS ... what you BELIEVE above what you SEE ... what He's PROMISED over what you FEAR.

→ *"What we see is fleeting & unreliable; what God has said is immovable & eternal." How should that change how we see the world, our circumstances and problems?*
5. The Spirit of Faith says, I don't care who YOU SAY I AM; I only care who GOD SAYS I AM.
 - * Lets who you are IN CHRIST define you, rather than past failures, perceived weakness or nagging doubts & fears.

→ *Have you placed a 'who I am in Christ' stake in the ground? Who are you in Christ? How does that differ from who other people have said you are or even how you have seen yourself at times?*

→ *How does being freed from the fear of man release your faith in God? Or perhaps it is strengthening your faith in God that releases you from the fear of man?*
6. The Spirit of Faith says, If the Holy Spirit says JUMP, my instinctive answer is HOW HIGH?

→ *"If the Holy Spirit is LEADING, we can FOLLOW BOLDLY & CONFIDENTLY." Discuss!*
7. The Spirit of Faith says, I know I'm on the VICTORY SIDE.
 - * This is the STARTING-POINT going into every situation.

→ *How does this viewpoint / starting-point / pre-assumption change everything?*

→ *"If I stumble that doesn't make me a loser, but a learner." Discuss!*

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

1. Make sure you're STANDING on the ROCK (Acts 4:13).
 - * Their boldness came out of RELATIONSHIP & so will yours.

→ *"Keep looking down and checking where your feet are planted." What are the benefits of being firmly planted on the Rock? Are there dangers in being bold when your feet are not planted on the Rock?*
2. Make sure you're digging deep into the WORD (Romans 10:17).
 - * The presence or absence of FAITH in your life is determined by the presence or absence of GOD'S WORD in your life.

→ *How is your relationship with the Word of God right now? How might you dig deeper so you can grow stronger?*
3. IRON SHARPENS IRON (Proverbs 27:17, 13:20).
 - * Who is INFLUENCING you & what are you CATCHING from them?

→ *Who have been the strongest influences on your faith journey? What was it about them that built up your faith? Are you in any relationships / friendships right now that raise any red flags? Why is your choice of church such a significant factor here?*
4. PRAY for BOLDNESS (Acts 4:23-31).

→ *Do you ever pray for boldness? What would or could happen, do you think, if you made a habit of praying for holy boldness every morning?*