“The Just Shall Live by Faith” with Walter and Lynette Hawkins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4BEw_m61R8>

“Full and Complete” with Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9aIFdBgirI>

“I Won’t Be Satisfied” with Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OtdwU1d3AQ>

“God is Standing By” with Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzD7RaPSqIc>

“Jesus Saves” with Marvin Winans and the Perfected Praise Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qq3OZD4-n3M>

“It’s All God” with Marvin Winans and the Soul Seekers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_9qAF7bur0>

“Draw Me Close to You / Thy Will be Done” with Marvin Winans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rexmQ0c634>

“What is This?” with Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dY4sppiKug>

“Faith” with Richard Smallwood and Vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YilaXKN4xO4>

“Trust Me” with Richard Smallwood and Vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHIdFGkg_0w>

“God of Promise” with Richard Smallwood and Vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2AlNFDcESA>

“Healing” with Richard Smallwood and Vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0nHUyxeMfI>

“The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power” with Andrae Crouch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FQCWMOmfio>

“Holy Spirit” with Francis Battistelli

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvBBC7-PSHo>

“Good Good Father” with Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqybaIesbuA>

“I Believe” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHMLjDgl1K8>

“All Things are Possible” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_uERfwXpas>

“Never Late” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8rdDne_JFQ>

“Way Maker” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4XWfwLHeLM>

“Be Open” with Richard Smallwood and Vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hm9L2-5OaTk>

*16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

 *17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith, Romans 1:16-17.*

**Recovering the Righteousness of Faith**

***Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1; Galatians 5:22; Romans 10:6-12***

 Praise the Lord! How are you doing? As the world turns in many different directions at the same time, I can only imagine that many different events are happening in our individual lives as well. This Bible Study encourages us to continue to live in and recover the righteousness of faith that propels our lives to awesome places in Christ.

 When God changed Saul’s life on the road to Damascus, God told Saul, later known as Paul, that God sent Paul to the Gentiles *to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me, Acts 26:18.* This Bible Study is about being sanctified by faith that is in God.

 Faith in the midst of what we are doing sets us far apart from and above ordinarily doing a task. I hope that we have all been in some environments where faith distinguished what we were doing.

The faith that I could one day be in my elementary school band as a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader made the task of playing “Three Blind Mice” on the 10-inch song flute as a 3rd grader worth the exercise. I can still hear the song “Three Blind Mice” in my head and I can still hear the solos “The Way We Were” and “We are the World” that my band director, Mr. Solomon, helped me to play on a saxophone.

 The faith that people can travel around the world and see different cultures is what makes people of all ages learn foreign language vocabulary and conjugate verbs over and over again. Lebron James left his championship-level team in Miami to come back home to Cleveland with the faith that the work of “blood, sweat, and tears” would win a hometown championship after a 52-year drought for Cleveland.

 Faith makes us extraordinary people in the midst of ordinary tasks. I pray that this Bible Study gives us pause to identify what faith we need to do ordinary tasks. Take a moment to fill in the blanks for our lives.

I am going to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

with the faith that

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 Lack of faith is exactly what led many Britons to vote Brexit to leave the European Union. A majority of people in Great Britain did not have the faith that their participation in the European Community economy would help their lives. At the heart of this belief is the doubt that the Post-World War II institutions of United States and European globalization help anybody, but the affluent few. To figure out whether this is true or not, we have to analyze our role in Europe and the world to determine whether it is best to keep putting faith in these institutions. And if not, we need to think about rebuilding institutions that we can have faith in.

 We must go through the same introspection in our lives. Are we living lives and working with faith that sets us apart in extraordinary ways? If not, why not?

 Some of us gave up faith in what we were doing because we thought we realized that we didn’t have the skills to succeed. Some of us gave up faith because we thought that our previous faults and our pasts will keep us from achieving anything we believe in. Some of us gave up faith because we believed that at the end of the day, we didn’t deserve any of what we could have believed in.

 This Bible Study asserts that whatever faith we need to set us apart, we need to be sanctified by faith in God. Faith in God teaches us that God has already provided, by His own faith, what we need right now.

 We do not have to be deterred by not having the skills to succeed because God chose us to be His children before the world ever existed. When God chose us, God blessed us *with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, Ephesians 1:3-5.*

We do not have to give up faith at the remembrance of our own sins and misdeeds and cowardice because Jesus died in faith for the forgiveness of our sins before we even committed them. We are already *accepted in the beloved, Ephesians 1:6. [W]e have redemption through this blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Ephesians 1:6-8.*

 We do not have to feel unworthy of believing in grand things because even though we don’t deserve them, God has been working them out for us. God has been making *known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure, which he hath purposed in himself,* and not in anything that we have done, *Ephesians 1:9.* We have an inheritance in Jesus Christ *being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ, Ephesians 1:10-12.*

 Faith in God will sanctify us for whatever we need to believe in. Faith in God is amazing because it moves us from faith to faith. While faith certainly leads us to various achievements, faith also leads us to new belief and new motivation. For example, the sixth grader who graduates from elementary school graduates with the accomplishment and awards for the last 7 or more years of school. But the sixth grader also leaves with new faith for what she can achieve when she goes onto Middle School where she will probably have 6-7 teachers at one time for a multitude of new and exciting subjects.

 Paul, in *Ephesians 1:13-23*, illustrated this faith to faith in God for when we trust in Jesus Christ. Some us heard the *word of truth, the gospel of [our] salvation,* and believed, *Ephesians 1:13.* Then when we believed with that faith, we *were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Ephesians 1:14.* Then, when we believed in faith on the promises and guidance and conviction of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit produced the fruit of faith and love in us, *Galatians 5:22.* Then, when our Christian fellowship learned of our faith and love, people prayed in faith for us. And then when people prayed in faith for us, we received a *spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him,* that we *may know what [is] the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Ephesians 1:18-19.*

We didn’t just all of a sudden believe on Jesus Christ and suddenly live in the greatness of His mighty power. But we did exactly that from faith to faith.

 These times in our lives call on us to live in faith, recover our faith, and act in faith. Our faith in Jesus Christ did not come because we figured out how God would give us the right words to ask for salvation; how God would come down and clean up our lives; and how God would set us on better paths in life. Our faith in Jesus Christ came because we believed God was with us and because we, in faith, believed in Jesus with all of our hearts.

 *[T]he righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to being Christ down from above:)*

 *7 Or, Who shall decend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)*

 *8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*

 *9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

 *10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

 *11 For the scripture saith, Whosover believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

 *12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him, Romans 10:6-12.*

 Imagine what God will do for us when we recover the righteousness of faith for all parts of our lives! I pray that you act in faith for what God is calling you to do right now. The exceeding greatness of God’s power is towards us who believe!

 May we keep the faith!

Tobias Pinckney, Powered to Witness University, 6/25/16

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