



BUILDING FAITH

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Seek Logic:

God created humans to use their brains to think really big from an eternal perspective. While the amount of brain usage can vary, studies gage it from about 3-10% with people that stretch their thinking greatly to discover something new on the high end. Since humanity does not seem to know how to even use their own brains fully, it seems logical to take direction from the Creator. Lord God commands love and perhaps this is the key to really using the whole brain. Does selfishness or love seem more logical? Even when people do evil, there are Christians so loving that they win their torturers to Christ. One such very righteous Christian was Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who founded Voice of the Martyrs.

Trust the Bible:

The Creator God wrote us a book for guidance and building faith. The Bible was written over a 1,500 year span by more than 40 authors and generations from every walk of life on very controversial topics in different places, times, moods and languages. There is harmony and continuity in it from Genesis to Revelation on one unifying theme, "God's loving redemption of humanity." It has been read by more people in more languages (with only small changes in words but none in theme) more than any other book. Despite being written on perishable material with persecution and criticism a constant throughout history and even today, it is the most popular book on earth. There are many sources to support its integrity, like the Dead Sea Scrolls for the Old Testament or the over 25,000 early manuscripts of the New Testament.

Recognize Christ Jesus:

Building faith requires knowing Jesus was the loving plan for humanity's redemption from the beginning of creation, which can be found in the Bible. The Old Testament contains hundreds of minor prophecies about Christ

Jesus with 48 irrefutable major ones wrote hundreds of years before the Messiah's birth on definite events. For example, Isaiah told of His birth and purpose, Micah specified the place of His birth, the Psalms foretold His betrayal, accusation by false witnesses, manner of death, resurrection, etc. The probability of fulfilling just eight prophecies is one chance in one hundred million billion, but all 48 would be ridiculous, like trillions and trillions, etc. Of course, Jesus knew this plan and said, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms." (Luke 24:44)

Desire a Relationship:

Communicate with Jesus! He loves everyone and wants to build our faith, which means the communication must go back and forth. We must pray continuously about everything and submit, so He is the Lord of our life. This means knowing God's will and a desire to follow it in love, so we do what's right in our prayers, finances, housing, work, relationships, time, conflicts, etc. Yes, most things should be checked out with God first, so our decisions fit into His plan. When we do not ask, receive and follow God's directions, we are building Satan's kingdom. Since all humans have the loving gift of free will, we choose which side to support with our thoughts, words and deeds. Christians need to pray with humility, patience, and ask for clarification when unsure to check if disobedience or spiritual warfare could be causing a problem.

Daily Prayers:

While Christ Jesus provided a basic prayer to begin our communication with the Heavenly Father (Matthew 6:9-13) on worship, food requests, being forgiven and forgiving, appealing for help, and praise, He wants us to have much more. With love and sincerity, Christians can talk 24/7 with our Loving Father as a protective parent, Christ Jesus like our Best Friend and the Holy Spirit for comforting advice. Constant communication builds faith and the following are some daily prayer points to include:

Worship – acknowledge Who God is

Praise – recognize our Lord's magnificence

Adoration – express our whole love

Thankfulness – be truly grateful under all circumstances

Forgiveness – ask for forgiveness and give it to others

Salvation – must be assured

Repentance – truly regret the intentional and unintentional sin we did

Intercession – plead for others
Guidance – request constant direction in almost everything
Spiritual Growth – wanting our will to align with God’s
Supplication – humbly ask for basic needs to be provided (includes healings)
Confirmation – acknowledge Christ as the only way to the Father
Listen – be open for however He wants to communicate with us
Scripture – read the Bible for God’s ways and communication with Him
Protection – the devil is tricky and can imitate but he has no peace or love
Correction – ask to be stopped from habitual sins
Patience – wait on the Lord because His timing is best

Analyze Life:

Since God commands humans to build His Kingdom of love, Christians need Christ as the Lord of their lives to practice this type of holy love explained in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. It is impossible to give real love if a Christian only uses worldly love, which swings between concern and anger. We can do a lot of busy work that does not build God’s Kingdom, but fools ourselves into thinking we are working for Him. We need God’s help to analyze our life for spiritual growth and build out faith.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

Do I recognize how the Lord directs my life and answers my prayers?
Am I asking for spiritual growth and accomplishing it?
Do I receive dreams, visions, miracles, answers, signs and blessings?
Does Christ Jesus fill me with His love, peace, joy and healing when asked?
Is my life a supernatural adventure?
Have I read the Bible with prayer and explanation by the Holy Spirit?
Am I communicating with the Lord about my daily life?
Have I requested or received discipline from God and know why?
Do I have any strange difficulties that indicate spiritual warfare?
Is my life full of love and peace in a close personal relationship with Jesus?

Check out symbols of Holy Love from the Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

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