



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, so really think. While the amount of brain usage can vary, studies gage it from about 3-10% with scientists that stretch their thinking so much they discover something at the 10 percentage. 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 love seem logical or is selfishness better? Even when people do evil, Christians, like Pastor Richard Wurmbrand (founded Voice of the Martyrs), can love so far beyond this world that they win their torturers to Christ.

Trust the Bible:

The Creator God wrote a book for guidance and building faith. The Bible was wrote 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 with harmony and continuity 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. 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 noted 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 God! He wants to build everyone’s faith, which means the relationship must go back and forth for this to work. Pray continuously about everything, like knowing God’s will and a desire to follow it, growing in love, what to wear and buy, where to live and work, relationships, safety, food, conflicts, etc. Yes, most things should be checked out with God first, so your decisions fit into His plan. When we do not ask, receive and follow God’s direction, we are supporting Satan. Since all humans have the loving gift of free will, we choose which side to support with our thoughts, words and deeds. If Christians pray and get no answer, a likely problem could be disobedience or spiritual warfare, so always ask for clarification.

Daily Prayers:

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

Worship – by acknowledging Who our Creator is

Praise – by recognizing our Lord’s magnificence

Adoration – by expressing our whole love

Thankfulness – by being truly grateful for all circumstances

Forgiveness – by asking for forgiveness and giving it to others

Repentance – by truly regretting the intentional and unintentional sin we did

Intercession – by pleading for others

Guidance – by requesting constant direction in almost everything

Spiritual Growth – by wanting our will to align with God’s

Supplication – by humbly asking for basic needs (includes healing)

Confirmation – by acknowledging Christ as the way to the Father

Analyze Life:

Since God commands humans to love, Christians need to be filled with Christ and practice the 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. Christians can do a lot of busy work that does not build God's Kingdom, but fool themselves into thinking they are working for Him. Sometimes a tangible symbol of God's love helps to remind Christians of their mission. Because everyone needs God's help, it is important to analyze life for spiritual growth and faith building, so question:

Am I asking for spiritual growth and accomplishing it?
How has the Lord directed my life?
Do I receive dreams, 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 answered 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?

Triple Heart Love:

Carrie Paradine began her Christian ministry with a vision from God, three transparent hearts beating as one. She was told this was the new symbol of the trinity and to spread the message. She speaks at churches and sells triple heart art products. "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—The Spirit of truth," Jesus said. ~ John 14:15-17

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Tranquil Hearts:

Susan Wright began her Christian ministry under direction of our Loving Creator. While she has worked on discovering truth for over 30 years with education, teaching, advising and researching in the world, her tranquility advice of peace and love are from Jesus Christ. "This is my command: Love each other." ~ John 15:17

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