

Strengthen Your Faith When You're Struggling When Life Gets Hard - Part 8

Life Church St. Louis May 18, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

1 Timothy 4:7b–8 (ESV) Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV) Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

James 1:22 (ESV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1. God Has Already Given Us What We Need

2 Peter 1:1–2 (ESV) Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:3 (ESV) His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV) by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2. We Must Build on the Faith We've Been Given

2 Peter 1:5 (ESV) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

2 Peter 1:6 (ESV) and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

2 Peter 1:7 (ESV) and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

3. Growth Keeps Us Effective and Assured

2 Peter 1:8 (ESV) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 (ESV) For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

2 Peter 1:10–11 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Strengthen Your Faith When You're Struggling Study Guide

When Life Gets Hard - Part 8

**Life Church St. Louis May 18, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv**

Introduction

1. What are some signs that someone's spiritual growth might be stagnating?
2. What habits or practices help you stay spiritually strong and focused? (1 Timothy 4:7b–8)
3. What does it look like to “work out” your salvation in daily life? (Philippians 2:12–13)
4. Why is it important to apply what we hear from God's Word? (James 1:22)

1. God Has Already Given Us What We Need

1. What does it mean to have a faith that is of equal standing to the apostles'? (2 Peter 1:1–2)
2. How can we better recognize and make use of everything God has already given us? (2 Peter 1:3)
3. What role do God's promises play in helping us grow spiritually? (2 Peter 1:4)
4. How can you remind yourself regularly of what God has already provided?

2. We Must Build on the Faith We've Been Given

1. How do we actively build on the foundation of faith in practical ways? (2 Peter 1:5)
2. Why are self-control and perseverance essential traits for spiritual growth? (2 Peter 1:6)
3. How can showing love to others strengthen your own faith? (2 Peter 1:7)
4. Which one of the traits in Peter's list do you feel led to grow in this week, and how can you take a step in that direction?

3. Growth Keeps Us Effective and Assured

1. What does it look like when someone is spiritually effective and fruitful? (2 Peter 1:8)
2. What might cause someone to forget the spiritual transformation they've experienced? (2 Peter 1:9)
3. How does practicing spiritual growth traits give us assurance of our salvation? (2 Peter 1:10–11)
4. What is one area of your spiritual walk where you would like to regain confidence and assurance?

Conclusion

1. How would your week look different if you acted on what God has already given you instead of waiting for something new?
2. What step can you take this week to grow stronger in your faith during a time of struggle?