

How to build your faith in 2018

John 14: 14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

15 "If you love me, obey my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

John 4: 23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. **24** For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Romans 12: 1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Matthew 22: 35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: **36** "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

A brief study of the life of Abraham, the first disciple

He is known as the father of our faith and a friend of God:

Galatians 3: 6 In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." **7** The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

8 What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you."

James 2:23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

Genesis 12: The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. **3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. **5** He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants. " **And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him.** **8** After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. **There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord.** **9** Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.

Genesis 13: 4 **This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the Lord again.**

Genesis 15: 6 And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. (Referenced at least 5 times! By James and Paul)

The ultimate test of faith...

Hebrews 11: 17 It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, **18** even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." **19** Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

Becoming a man or woman of faith today

Romans 10: 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Joshua 1: 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

John 15: 5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. **7** But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! **8** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.