

BUILD YOUR FAITH IN MAN'S MAKER

Note to the speaker:

Many things can weaken our faith. We must recognize them so that we may keep our faith strong and not allow anything to cause us to lose faith. It behooves us to study examples of those who displayed strong faith in God and imitate them. It is also important that we help others around us to build up their faith

VITAL TO BUILD FAITH NOW (9 min.)

You may say, 'I have faith,' but how strong is it?

Do you recognize what your faith is up against?

Our time is especially marked by loss of faith (*w89 7/15 22-3*)

Many weakening influences: materialistic thinking, anxieties over employment and cost of living, undue interest in political developments or scientific achievements, ideas such as evolution, association with persons who do not live up to Bible standards, escapism through entertainment and sports (*w89 10/1 15-20*)

Have these affected your faith? Will they yet?

Bible emphasizes importance of faith (Heb 11:6)

Cannot take faith for granted

Even in time of apostles, Christians were urged to fight for faith (Jude 3)

How strong is your faith? your family's? (*w86 7/15 21-6*)

Faith is not credulity; it is based on concrete evidence (*it-1 804*)

Many who ridicule Christian faith manifest faith in other ways

Scientists show faith in past discoveries as to "laws of nature"

From farmer to physicist, all exercise faith in stability of natural laws (*Ec 1:5-7; w77 227-31; ce 118-25*)

Takes time and effort to gather convincing evidence as basis for faith (Heb 11:1; *w87 7/15 5*)

As large building is made up of individual building blocks, faith is likewise based on individual "blocks" of evidence carefully lined up in relation to others (*w87 7/15 5*)

Each "block" adds evidence that God exists, is Creator, has purpose for creation

ABUNDANT EVIDENCE, "BUILDING BLOCKS," FOR BUILDING FAITH IN GOD (7 min.)

Knowledge that we have a Maker, a Creator, helps build faith (Ro 1:20; Heb 3:4; *w87 7/15 5*)

Not merely opinion; we know earth exists and that we exist

Paul said that creation itself was basis for faith

Combines with God's word, or message (Ps 19:1-4; Ro 10:17-18)

Revelation from God in the Bible adds to our faith

Abundant proof that Bible is a book inspired of God (2Ti 3:16; *w87 7/15 5-6*)

Harmony of all its writers over span of 16 centuries

True science, including archaeology, has attested to its authenticity and reliability

Testimony of fulfilled prophecies (*w87 7/15 6; ce 216-31; si 344-6*)

Scores of prophecies fulfilled in Jesus alone (*si 343-4*)

Dependability of God's promises serves as reason for us to have faith (Jos 21:43, 45; 23:14)

His deliverance of Israel from Egypt proves he lives up to promises

That event is commemorated by Jews down to today

Was an event engraved on their national conscience

Putting "blocks" together gives foundation for strong faith in God

IT IS NECESSARY TO BUILD FAITH ACTIVELY (9 min.)

Just because you have faith does not mean you do not have to work on it

Anointed Christians were told that lack of faith is "sin that easily entangles" (Heb 12:1; *it-1 805*)

Any of us could weaken in faith; even the apostles asked for more faith (Lu 17:5)

We have many fine examples of those in past who maintained strong faith in God

Noah was one who built faith in our Maker

He saw visible creation as we do

Could see that God's word had come true (Ge 3:16-19)

He did not have Bible or fulfilled prophecies

Nevertheless had faith there would be a flood and displayed that faith by building ark (Heb 11:7; *it-2 507; w89 10/1 11; w87 1/15 12*)

Legends in many lands as to Flood (*gm 116; it-1 328, 610-11; w86 9/15 4-5*)

Yet faith is built, not on legends, but on reliable testimony of God's Word (Lu 17:26, 27; 2Pe 2:5)

Abraham was another outstanding example of faith (Heb 11:8-10; *it-1* 804; *w87* 1/15 12)
May have received his understanding by personal association with Shem (*it-1* 29)
Left his home in Ur, “not knowing where he was going” (Ge 12:1-3)
Boldly declared God’s name (Ge 12:8; 13:18; 21:33)
Did not return to Ur during famine in Canaan (Ge 12:10; 13:1, 3; Heb 11:15)
Got circumcised (Ge 17:22-27; *w89* 7/1 19-21)
Believed in resurrection (Heb 11:19; *it-1* 804)

Do you work to build your faith? Do you work to build that of others?

WORK TO BUILD YOUR FAITH AND THAT OF OTHERS (15 min.)

We need healthy faith to please God (Tit 2:2; Heb 11:6; *w89* 10/1 15, 19-20)

Likely your faith has grown since baptism; continue to increase your faith

Cannot be so occupied with helping others that our own faith is neglected

Things we can do: personal study, persevere in prayer, regularly attend congregation meetings, share in works of faith (*w84* 6/1 8-12)

Do you need to give more emphasis to faith-building study?

Must not become so busy with helping others that you neglect reading and meditating on God’s Word

Pray about your faith and the faith of others (Lu 22:31, 32)

Faith will become stronger as we exercise it (Jas 2:22)

Help your family members build faith

Do you give thought as to how you will do this?

Copy example of Abraham, father of those having faith (Ro 4:11)

He taught his household “Jehovah’s way” (Ge 18:19; *w89* 7/1 20)

Parents can help children by reasoning with them on creation (Illustrate with an example or two from *g68* 3/8 3-8; see also *fl* 105)

Children will not have faith just because their parents have it

They too must build faith on solid evidence (*yp* 308)

Need own program of personal study

In divided household, believer can build faith of children (2Ti 1:5)

Your faithful example will also help them build faith

Elders should have in mind building up faith of congregation (Eph 4:11-13)

Not just organizers and teachers of facts

Help others to see that by sharing in preaching, they are displaying and building their faith as did Noah (2Pe 2:5)

Take the lead in works of faith; set fine example (Heb 13:7; *w89* 12/15 21)

MANIFEST FAITH EACH DAY AS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE (5 min.)

Faith can help us to move mountainlike obstacles (Mr 11:22-24; *w87* 7/15 3-4)

When such obstacles to faith occur on job, in school, in dealing with relatives, or when handling problems, do you show faith in God by doing what he counsels? Is your faith that strong, solid?

Works of faith include more than facing big problems

Also involve what we do every day (Jas 2:14-17, 20)

Jesus likened our time to days of Noah, a man of faith (Mt 24:37-42)

Be like Noah, and constantly build your faith

Be alert, conscious of God’s will, active in preaching

Faith needed now as never before

The time and effort invested in faith are worth it (Joh 3:16)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)