



# LESSON 40

## Faith, Part 2

*“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”*

**CORRIE TEN BOOM**

### **Kirk’s Comment**

It’s amazing to me that the people who say they cannot have faith in God because they cannot see Him will still fly in airplanes. Flying requires that you trust your life to two pilots you’ve never met, who are flying over 500 miles an hour in a tin can with wings, built by people you don’t know, and inspected by people you’ve never seen. Even an atheist has enough “faith” to fly in an airplane and trust in the things he wants to trust in.

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

*“I made a commitment, but nothing happened.”*

Some people don’t get past “square one” because they trust in their feelings rather than in God. His promises are true, despite our feelings. If I make a promise to my wife, that promise is true whether she is feeling happy or sad. If she doubts my word, then she brings a slur to my integrity.

Anyone who genuinely repents and trusts in Christ will be saved. The Bible makes this promise: “He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21).





about the fact that he would do the same to them within ten days. Hopeful and Christian decided to pray. Good idea.

After about six hours of prayer, Christian cried, “What a fool I am, thus to live in this stinking dungeon when I may as well walk out in liberty. I have a key in my bosom called ‘promise.’ That will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle.” Christian then pulled out the key, unlocked the door, and they escaped—no doubt the wiser.

What a wonderful allegory of those who doubt the promises of God. How perfectly it describes our own experience. The second our minds doubt the promises of God, Giant Despair appears and begins to beat us without mercy. What fools we are to lie in such a dark, nasty, and stinking dungeon! The moment we take out the key of promise, we find release.

The way to measure the depth of our faith is to see how much joy we retain in tribulation. This fact was illustrated by what appeared to be a life-threatening situation in which Jesus and His disciples found themselves. They were in a boat during a violent storm. While the disciples panicked in fear, Jesus slept. That’s the peace that faith produces. The Bible said He also had an “oil of gladness above [His] fellows” (Hebrews 1:9). That’s because He lived in absolute faith in His Father. May God help us to have that level of faith.

Imagine that we told you that you would receive a million dollars when you finished this course. Think of it: if you simply complete these lessons, you would get ten thousand \$100 bills—all yours. If you truly believed the promise, you would have immediate joy. If you didn’t believe it, you would have no joy at all.

If you have faith in the exceedingly great and precious promises of God, you should have instant and exceeding joy—and the joy of the Lord will be your strength. If you have no joy, then you don’t believe God’s promises—in essence, it means you think God is a liar. So if you are joyless, repent from the grievous sin of having “an evil heart of unbelief.” You should be able to say with the apostle Paul, “I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation” (2 Corinthians 7:4). The promises of God are still true no matter what the situation in which you find yourself.



## QUESTIONS

1. **What is the name of the giant in Doubting Castle, and why is his name applicable for those who enter his territory?**
2. **What is it that tests our faith in God and what is the measure of faith?**
3. **Why would any of us lose faith in the promises of God?**
4. **What is the source of our strength to endure any circumstance? (See Nehemiah 8:10.)**
5. **Name someone in Scripture who slept when others would have been fearful.**



## FEATHERS FOR ARROWS

Roman prisoners were usually chained with one end fastened around the wrist of their fighting hand, and the other end attached to the wrist of a soldier's left hand. This left the soldier's right arm free in case the prisoner attempted to escape. For greater security the prisoner was sometimes chained to two soldiers, one on each side, as Peter was in Acts 12:6. Meanwhile, "Peter was sleeping"! In a few hours he expected a sting-less death. Like Paul, he didn't count his life dear to himself, so that he might finish his course with joy, and the ministry he has received from the Lord Jesus (see Acts 20:24). In this frame of mind he had fallen asleep, and he slept in perfect peace. Truly this is an example of someone who was eternally minded. Psalm 4:8 says, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for you, LORD, only make me dwell in safety."

## WORDS OF COMFORT

Sue mentioned that an overzealous clock on the kitchen stove was ticking too loudly, so (much to her dismay) I volunteered to fix it. When I pulled it to bits, I noticed that it was run by electricity. All I had to do to stop the ticking was to simply pull out one of the wires.

When I pulled on it, it bent and exposed a small piece of live wire. This was the same stupid stove that had set me on fire, so I decided not to proceed any further. I'm a wise man. The clock had stopped... time was standing still. That's all that mattered.

I carefully put the glass back on, which wasn't easy (this was because I had accidentally broken the clips off when I removed it). The face was a little loose, but I had succeeded as a handyman. Job well done.

About two months later, I draped a dish towel over the oven handle and it caught the face of the clock. The towel pulled it back, causing the tiny piece of bare wire to touch some metal. That caused a small explosion with a flash of flame that frightened the living daylights out of me and blew out some of the household appliances. The stove had joined the clock. Now it didn't work. That wouldn't have been too bad, if Sue hadn't been right in the middle of baking chocolate chip squares.



The incident also caused a gas leak bad enough for the gas company to have to come out and shut the gas off.

## Memory Verse

*“I am crucified  
with Christ:  
nevertheless  
I live; yet not I,  
but Christ lives  
in me: and the  
life which I now  
live in the flesh I  
live by the faith  
of the Son of  
God, who loved  
me, and gave  
himself for me.”*

**GALATIANS 2:20**

## Last Words

**Chrysostom**, being led out to exile and death, could triumphantly say:

**“Glory to God for all events.”**