

HOW GOD GROWS OUR FAITH

This Is Us – Part 4

Rev. Steve Norman

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MEMORY VERSE:

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

"The apostles said, 'Lord, increase our faith!'" Luke 17:5

"Without faith, it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6

Jesus: "According to your faith will it be done to you!"

Matthew 9:29

"Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment, so that you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous..."

Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

2 WAYS GOD GROWS OUR FAITH

1. THROUGH KNOWING GOD'S WORD

"Faith comes from hearing God's message, and God's message is heard through THE WORD of Christ." Romans 10:17 (NIV)

2. THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES THAT TEST ME

"When your faith is tested, your character has a chance to grow." James 1:3

4 TESTS

1. GOD TESTS & GROWS OUR FAITH THROUGH DREAMS

"I know what I've planned for you,' says the Lord. 'I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future!" Jeremiah 29:11 (ICB)

"God can do anything, you know -- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!" Eph 3:20 (msg)

- TO GROW IN FAITH, I MUST LEARN TO DREAM BIG!**

2. GOD TESTS & GROWS OUR FAITH THROUGH DELAYS

"But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed." Habakkuk 2:3 (NLT)

"...God acts on the behalf of those who wait for Him." Is. 64:4b

- TO GROW IN FAITH, I MUST LEARN TO WAIT PATIENTLY!**

3. GOD TESTS & GROWS OUR FAITH THROUGH DOLLARS

Jesus: "If you can't wisely handle worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches of heaven?" Luke 16:11

Paul to Christians: "You do everything better than anyone else. You have stronger faith...so you must give more generously than anyone else." 2 Corinthians 8:7 (CEV)

Jesus: "Give, and God will give it back to you. You'll receive a full measure -- pressed down, shaken together, running over, and spilling into your lap! For with whatever measure you use to give, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV)

- TO GROW IN FAITH, I MUST LEARN TO GIVE IN FAITH!**

4. GOD TESTS & GROWS OUR FAITH THROUGH DIFFICULTIES

"Dear friends, do not be surprised when you suffer painful troubles. These things are testing your faith. So do not think that something strange is happening to you." 1 Peter 4:12 (ICB)

"These trials and troubles are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire purifies gold - and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold."

1 Peter 1:7 (NLT)

"Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, but I'm glad that I wasn't there so that you can grow in faith. Let's go to Lazarus!"

John 11:14-15

- **TO GROW IN FAITH, I MUST LEARN TO TRUST GOD CONTINUALLY!**

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father, I want to dream dreams. Help me to believe You for more than just dreams, may I believe You for great dreams. Help me to trust You more than I've ever trusted You before. Give me courage and boldness to believe You for great things and then act upon that courage and boldness as I attempt to do great things for You. May this church family called Crossroads Church continue to grow and have an impact on a society that desperately needs help, and may I be a part of that growth. Help me to shine Your love to the people around me. Give me the grace, patience, and love to be Jesus to the people around me, and bless me so that I can be a blessing to those in my community and my world.

God, I ask you to give me and those on the worship call with Crossroads the health, finances, wisdom, power, and grace that we will need to be what You have called us to be in the days ahead. May we be known to all as a woman of God or a man of God. I pray for this blessing in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.