

FAITHWORKS

life according to James

How would you define faith? How is it different from 'the faith' as in 1 Peter 5.8-10?

Terry said that faith 'distributes the load'. Does that mean that we still have to carry part of the load? 1 Peter 5.7, Matthew 11.28-30.

Share examples of how God has either made the load easier to carry or removed it altogether. (He may do either.)

What is simple about faith? Do you find it difficult to have faith, or is it easy?

What is the foundation of faith? What do you have faith in?

Some people have faith in their own faith – that is, they rely on themselves to pray enough, to read the Bible enough, to quote enough Scripture.

Some examples of people with faith: Matthew 8.5-10, 9.20-22, 15.22-28. What did these people understand about Jesus that enabled them to have faith?

Sometimes even the disciples who knew Jesus didn't have faith in him, e.g. Mark 4.35-41. They didn't understand who Jesus was. We have the record of who he is and what he has done, we have his Spirit in us. Is our faith greater than theirs, or do we doubt his word?

We can test our faith – do we worry? Are we ever disappointed in God, thinking he hasn't answered our prayers? Do we complain about our circumstances? Psalm 37.1,23-25. Verse 25 says the Psalmist has never seen the righteous forsaken nor is descendants begging bread. Have you ever seen those things? If so, why has it happened?

How well do you know God's word? Do you believe it? Do you do what it says?

