

INCREASING FAITH

Read: Luke 24:13-18; 25-27; 30-35

Luk 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs.

Luk 24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

Luk 24:15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

Luk 24:16 But **their eyes were holden that they should not know him.**

Luk 24:17 And he said unto them, **What manner of communications *are* these** that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

(v.15) Jesus drew near to them, even when they talked unbelief.

(v.16) Whilst they talked unbelief, they could not recognize Jesus.

(v.17) Jesus makes the challenge, to end the unbelieving talk.

These disciples were reduced to total unbelief within days of the crucifixion.

John the Baptist knew the secret:

Jn 3:30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease. 31He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: **he that cometh from heaven is above all.**

And the apostles said unto the Lord, ***“Increase our faith”.***

It should not have been necessary for one the apostles to ask for an increase in faith. Much later Peter makes a much more appropriate statement. “them that have obtained like precious faith”. (2Pet 1:1)

2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to them that have obtained like precious faith** with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

The believers’ faith comes from the same source as the apostles’ faith. Peter wrote to those of “like precious faith”.

Col 1:10 That ye might **walk worthy of the Lord** unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and **increasing in the knowledge of God;**

Increase in the knowledge of God will always result in an increase of faith. John says that the abiding endowment of the anointing teaches us all things. We more we abide in Him the more knowledge we receive of Him.

1Jn 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but **as the same anointing teacheth you of all things**, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The spirit-filled believer must believe he has the same anointing available to him as the apostles of old.

Phil 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Paul's secret to increasing his faith was firstly, a commitment to know Jesus Christ intimately and secondly, to walk in and demonstration the power of God.

Mk 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

To truly recognize unbelief is to recognize the iniquity of it.
We must take off the cloak of unbelief. We must lay aside the sin weight.
This cloak of iniquity must be taken off forever.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run** with patience **the race** that is set before us,

“**Oykov**” is the Greek word for “**weight**”. It means hooked or crooked. Anything attached or suspended by hook, is by its whole weight.
“easily beset” simply means “unbelief” – iniquity.

1 Cor 9:24 Know ye not that **they which run in a race run all**, but one receiveth the prize? **So run**, that ye may obtain.

We cannot run in a race with weights. We are not horses!

Phil 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Mat 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, "**Because of your unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, **ye shall say unto this**

mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; **and it shall remove**; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Jesus recommended fasting as a means to increase faith and Holy Spirit gifting to work in the ministry. (Mat 17:21)

Act 14:23 And when **they had ordained them elders in every church**, and had **prayed with fasting**, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

The ordination of elders was due to the increasing numbers of churches. This was not done lightly; they had a mind towards fulfilling the will of God. They only ordained elders after they had prayed with fasting, for it was important to ordain the right men.

Many Christians live in slavery to food. Some eat so much they dull their ability to serve God to their full potential. All of the great men of the Bible rationed their food; Elijah, Moses, John the Baptist, Paul, and of course, Jesus.

2 Cor 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, **in fastings often**, in cold and nakedness.

It is one of the last day “signs”, even as they were eating and drinking before the judgment of the flood, so they are “eating and drinking” today.

Mat 28:38 "For as in the days that were **before the flood they were eating and drinking**, marrying and giving in marriage, **until the day that Noe entered into the ark,** "

Luk 21:34 "And take heed to yourselves, **lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life**, and so that day come upon you unawares. "

Man has surrendered to “surfeiting” or excess eating. This lifestyle ushers in a “preoccupation with self” and the caring for one’s own life.

GLUTTONY: the lust for food.

Esau lost everything for lentils.

Appetite felled Adam.

Food was used to tempt Jesus.

Num 11:4 And the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, **Who shall give us flesh to eat? 5 We remember the fish**, which we did eat in Egypt freely; **the cucumbers, and the**

melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: 6 But now our soul *is* dried away: *there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

Deut 21:20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This **our son is stubborn and rebellious**, he will not obey our voice; *he is a glutton, and a drunkard.*

Gluttony and drunkenness is linked to rebellion and stubbornness.
Fasting can rid the believer of all rebellious behaviour.

Food is not as important as you think.

“Air” is our most urgent need.

“Water” is the second necessity.

“Rest or sleep” is the third and

“Food” is fourth and last.

Spiritual maturity demands that FOOD is not our FIRST priority!

Some verses on Fasting: Ezra 8:21-23; Isaiah 58:6; Daniel 6:8; John 3:5; 2 Chronicles 20:3; Judges 20:26; Joel 1:14; Nehemiah 1:4; Luke 4:1-4; Matthew 6:16; Mark 9:29; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 6:4-5.