



# Faith Challenges

*Caring Strategies For Our  
Spiritual Life*

# Losing Faith



**“Over the course of a few years, I lost my faith.** The best way I can describe the process is that I gradually started doubting everything I read in the Bible, which felt more like **fable than fact.** I also began feeling more and more certain that there was no God out there at all. I questioned why I ever felt that God was there in the first place, and found that I had no concrete reason to make such an affirmation. Full of skepticism, I felt that praying to a God I had never met was a ludicrous notion altogether. I confided in a few close friends, removed myself from the speaking list, and **began to live my life without God.”**

# Finding Faith



*“It did not take long for me to become a person I did not want to be. **My skepticism gradually turned into cynicism.** My absence of focus on God turned to an obsessive focus on self. Instead of inspiring others, I felt that I did nothing but criticize. It occurred to me that I needed God, but I was still left with a nagging feeling that he wasn't there. That's when I reached out in spite of my disbelief and asked that God, if he was indeed there, would help me **FEEL** that he was there. Things started happening little by little - nothing that could be considered a miracle, but comments people would make in passing, situations in my life that seemed to speak directly to my doubts. **The more I prayed, the more I felt God was reassuring me of his presence.**”*

# Feeding Faith



**The feeling that God was there returned to me.** And I describe it as a "feeling" quite deliberately. To me, it is more like **knowing someone cares** about you than it is like knowing  $2+2=4$ . This feeling waxes and wanes throughout my life even still. To those who have lost the feeling that God is there, I understand you, and **my prayer is simply that He will bless you with faith**, and will reassure you of His love for you. That you, like those Peter writes to, will learn to love a savior you have never seen with your eyes. May he return one day so that all doubts will subside, and until then, may we be bold in our faith in the midst of a world that hasn't yet been blessed with the feeling of his love.

# Faith Challenges



*“I believe that my marriage **will** be in the lord. I have never believed that only Christadelphians will be saved. I don't mean that in a theoretical way because God can make any exception that he wants. I mean that I believe there are good godly people that are not Christadelphian, and that they can be forgiven just like us. God has a limitless capacity for forgiveness, and there is no reason it can't extend to sincerely mistaken doctrines. **I have decided NOT to make agreement with the BASF and Doctrines to be Rejected a prerequisite for who I chose to fellowship.** Specific doctrinal issues are not as important to me as the weightier matters, like learning to love my neighbor as myself.”*

# Faith Challenges



## Matthew 13:18-23

**19)** Hears the message and does not understand

**21)** Has no root

**22)** Worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it

- Lack of (*or Insufficient*) Understanding
- No Connections
- Worldly Influences
- RELATIONSHIPS

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) Fellowship

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

### 1) PRAYER

- Make Prayers Participatory

### 2) Bible Reading

- Make Prayers Commonplace

### 3) Fellowship

- Make Prayers **ALIVE**



# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

1) Prayer

- Read Applicable Passages

2) **BIBLE READING**

- Read Modern Translations

3) Fellowship

- Read the Bible **OFTEN**

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## Ephesians 1:4-5 NIV

- 4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
- 5) In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

1) Prayer

2) Bible Reading

3) **FELLOWSHIP**

- God is **LOVE**
- God wants us to learn **HOW TO LOVE**
- It is in loving others that we are **MOST LIKE GOD**

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## Galatians 5:14 NIV

- 14) The entire law is summed up in a single command:

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## Galatians 5:14 NIV

- 14) The entire law is summed up in a single command:  
**Love your neighbor as yourself**

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## John 13:34-35 NIV

- 34) A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## John 13:34-35 NIV

- 34) A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
- 35) **By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

1) Prayer

2) Bible Reading

3) **FELLOWSHIP**

- **LOVE** cannot be learned in **ISOLATION**
- **RELATIONSHIPS** are what Life is **ALL** about
- You will be **EVALUATED** on how you have **LOVED**



# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## Matthew 25:37-40 NIV

- 37) Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and **feed you**, or thirsty and **give you** something to drink?
- 38) When did we see you a stranger and **invite you** in, or needing clothes and **clothe you**?

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) **FELLOWSHIP**

## Matthew 25:37-40 NIV

- 39) When did we see you sick or in prison and go to **visit** you?
- 40) The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

# Feeding Faith



## The Diet of Faith

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Bible Reading
- 3) Fellowship

Next Period:

**Cultivating  
Community**