



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Progressive Faith

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Progressive faith means a continuing development of Christian's trust in God. Faith does not mature overnight and it requires participation for spiritual growth (2Pt.1:5-7). Our spiritual life has its own stages like our human life. Moreover, in each stage of our human as well as spiritual life, God requires us to grow into a better person or to be better version(s) of ourselves.

1. Seven stages of progressive faith:

1.1. **No faith.** A type of faith associated with certain/minimal knowledge of God. Complete trust is compromised in times of trouble/crisis. The story of Jesus and his disciples is a reminder about battling the storm and how facing a difficult situation resulted in doubt about Jesus' protection over them (Mk. 4:35-41). There is no question about Jesus' divinity because he continues to protect, perform miracles and love everyone. Despite these affirmations, Why do Christians still doubt?

1.2. **Little faith.** A type of faith which limits God's abilities because of a person's reliance on his/her ability /capability. In order to grow in faith, Christians (we) must learn to trust Him more in prayers and requests for He has better plans for us (Jer. 29:11-14). We might be like the Israelites in the story of Exodus who drank fresh water from the rock in the desert that Moses struck, yet still doubted God for their provision of food (Ps. 78:20).

There are two types of little faith that leads us to doubt:

1.2.1. Taking off our eyes from God

Our faith will not grow when it grows above the rocky soil (Mt.13:5-6). Our faith slowly withers and dies when put

we are under testing since the seeds of faith haven't taken ground and haven't had a strong foundation.

1.2.2. **Trusting ourselves.** Our lack of trust in ourselves and not in God hinders His blessings and grace to us. We also think that He is only available in life-threatening emergencies. We should always remember that God is not busy; He is available to all of us. Sometimes our common sense hinders our trust in God. We might resort into our own (intellectual) means to solve our life's problems and to trust in God's "miracles" are foolishness. St. Paul said, "For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom" (1 Cor. 1:25). We are called to put our trust in God and leave it all to him. Afterwards, we can experience miracles and solutions beyond our own intellect to understand.

(To be continued....)

Conclusion:

Our journey with God is not to be a stagnant affair. We are to walk in his ways and follow his words. Our Father in heaven wants us to progress in our relationship with him.

Reflection:

1. What is your state of faith today?
2. How will you develop your faith?
3. Who are you partners to faith development?

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