

Have you ever known someone who actively saw evidence of God's activity in her life?

- Someone who would pray and then believe.
- Expect and then see. Ask and then receive.
- Not easily discouraged or **paralyzed** by fear and insecurity
- Had a long list of experiences with God to prove it

A woman such as this has critical, power-filled FAITH. I want that for myself, how about you? What do you think are the biggest obstacles to believers acting in faith?

Here are some examples of someone **demonstrating** faith and receiving divine protection as a result:

- The children of Israel (Exodus 11:4-7; 12:5-7, 13)
- Daniel (Daniel 6:7-10, 16-23)
- Rahab (Joshua 2:8-21; 6:24-25)

How did the people in these passages demonstrate confidence in God? How were they protected as a result of their obedience?

Talking about faith is not the same as having it. Faith is an action. "Faith without works is useless...For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead (James 2:20, 26) Tell how you see faith and works relationship to one another. A.W. Tozer says, "Any faith that must be supported by the evidence of the senses is not real faith."

We have to be willing and committed to turn our beliefs to active faith—acting on the promises and **directives** of God, not just talking about them. It will certainly not be easy but over time we learn to trust God enough to move forward at His word resulting in an amazing adventure with our God. *Active faith accesses the promises of God and keeps the enemy's arrows from hindering our experience of abundant living. Be a woman of faith—not just a woman who talks about it—and you'll never regret it!* Turn to Hebrew 11:1 and copy the definition of faith here.

The act of faith becomes a shield of protection to guard against the enemy's attacks. A quote from Dr Tony Evans is "*Faith is acting like it is so, even when it is not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so.*"

List areas where you sense God is asking you to take a step of faith right now—either by a clear directive from His Word (to forgive, tithe, etc.) or because of the leading of God's Spirit. 1) _____ 2) _____

Have you hesitated to move forward in obedience---Why?

Circle any of the following categories of reasons that apply to you.

Insecurity * fear * doubt * temptation * anxiety/worry about "what ifs" * sudden increase of other stressful life circumstances * discouragement/ questioning your ability * guilt* hopelessness* hateful thoughts about another person * busyness

Faith often requires risk, it also incorporates wisdom. A wise woman will seek sound direction, clarity, and **confirmation** before moving forward so that she is not making impulsive or even foolish decisions. The more your choices will change your lifestyle or affect others around you, the more time, effort, and energy you should spend confirming God's Word *before you do anything at all.*

The enemy's flaming arrows are not meant to kill or destroy. He knows he can't destroy you because you are eternally secure in Jesus. They are meant to distract. So he can blindside you. He is not randomly shooting these arrows of his. He has a plan. He's studied your habits, your deepest fears and weaknesses, and has aimed at those areas in particular. He fully intends to sidetrack your attention by setting any number of internal fires ablaze in your life like those mentioned above. He wants you to consider *disobedience*, think about *crippling doubts*, and burden your conscience with *paralyzing accusations* so you'll be unfocused as he sneaks up from behind.

Looking back at week 1 when you wrote in the oval, how has it caused you to be distracted and sidetracked? What connection do you see between the step of faith God is asking you to take and that person or situation you wrote there?

The objective there is : distraction, diversion, chaos. With enough flaming arrows successfully lodged in their target you will no longer be able to move forward in obedience to which you are called. *But, we have an answer to this kind of attack!*

Please open your Bibles to Ephesians 6. Read and compare vv 14-15 with 16-17.

The belt, breastplate, and shoes, Paul tells us are a spiritual uniform that should be worn by believers at all times each and every day. But the shield, he commands to be “taken up”. The purpose is to extinguish all incoming flaming arrows of the evil one as he attempts to **infiltrate** our life in some way.

We then, activate faith as a shield of protection over our lives. When do the flaming arrows come? Specifically when you are *called to walk in faith, those arrows are deliberately intended to disable you from doing the only thing that has the power to extinguish them; walking in faith!*

Let’s visit the Bible’s Hall of Faith, Hebrews 11. How did the following people demonstrate active faith? How did their actions “extinguish” what could have crippled them? What could have been the tragic generational effects ?

Noah (v7) Abraham (vv8-10) Sarah (v 11-12) Moses (v24-26)

They all had to make the difficult choice: give in to what they could see, or trust God with what they couldn’t. *Being a woman who extinguishes the enemy’s darts:*

**means choosing to live with steadfast confidence in God and His promises for you*

**means walking forward in truth as revealed in His Word and His personal directives for your life that align with it;*

**By His power, push past the fear or doubts that seek to paralyze you in insecurity, choose instead to follow God’s leading, trusting Him to take care of all else.*

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

IS THERE A TRUTH TO BELIEVE? Walking in faith means doing what God has called us to do, anyway—following through on God’s instructions despite how incapable I might feel or unable to see the conclusion I am.

What did God show us today?

- 1) Faith is an action. It isn’t just talking about it or thinking about it.
- 2) Any faith that must be supported by the evidence of the senses is not real faith.
- 3) A woman of true faith chooses by His power to push past fear or doubts that cause insecurity and instead follows God’s leading, trusting Him to care for all else

What is God asking you to do today? What step will you take to show your faith?

Word Study:

- 1) confirmation: to support, verify, endorse, affirm. She sought confirmation by verifying it in God’s Word.
- 2) demonstrating: To have evidence of proof. In Hebrews 11 many are demonstrating great faith by their actions without confirmation from others.
- 3) directives: a charge, order, authoritative decree. God’s directives require our obedience in active faith.
- 4) infiltrate: to filter through, to move into especially with hostile intent. The evil one attempts to infiltrate our lives making us distracted, disabled and unresponsive.
- 5) paralyzed: helpless stoppage, inactivity or inability to act. She was paralyzed by fear and insecurity.
- 6) underutilized: not used as often as needed or could be used; not properly used. Faith is an underutilized expression in Christian circles.