

What Is Faith?
Matthew 8:23-34

Review:

1. True faith requires submission to Jesus' power and authority
2. True faith requires trust in the way Jesus uses His sovereign power
3. Those who cry out to Jesus will be saved, in spite of the weakness of their faith.

Go further: Read Psalm 34

1. In verse 1, how often does David say he will bless and praise the Lord?
2. In verse 2, why does David say he will boast?
3. To whom will he boast and what will their reaction be to his boasting?
4. What does David call all his listeners to do in verse 3?
5. In verses 4 and 6, what does David say God has done for him in the past?
6. In verse 5, what reaction does David say people have when they have looked to God?
7. What does David say the angels of God will do in verse 7? To whom will they give this help?
8. What does David invite his listeners to do in verse 8? What does he promise to those who do?
9. What does David invite his listeners to do in verse 9? What does he promise to those who do?
10. What promise does David make in verse 10 to those who seek the Lord?
11. Whom does David promise to teach in verse 11? What does he promise to teach them?
12. What sorts of things does David say people tend to desire in verse 12?
13. In verses 13 and 14, how does David say people can gain such desires?
14. In verse 15, how does David describe the attention God pays to the righteous?
15. How does David characterize God's attitude toward evildoers in verse 16?
16. In verse 17, what does David say God will do for those who cry out to Him?
17. To whom does David say God will draw near in verse 18? Whom does he say God will save?
18. What does David say the righteous will experience in verse 19? How will God help people in the midst of these situations?
19. In what specific way does David promise God will protect His people in verse 20?
20. What does David promise will happen to the wicked in verse 21?
21. What does David promise the Lord will do in verse 22? How does he describe those the Lord promises to protect?

Apply:

1. In what things are you tempted to boast? How does boasting in God transform our perspective?
2. What do you think it means to taste of the Lord? How might someone do this?
3. Why do you think David says that it is "children" who will be taught to fear the Lord? Given verses 11 and 18, what does this description say about the way we must approach God?
4. What similarity do you find between verse 20 and Jesus' suffering on the cross (see John 19:31-36)? How does Jesus' experience help to explain how God keeps His promises in Psalm 34?
5. How do you think God is calling you to demonstrate your trust in Him today through your words? Through your actions? What might be holding you back from demonstrating your faith in these ways?