

FROM DEAD END TO DELIVERANCE

The Six Phases of Faith -- Part 6

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HOW IS YOUR FAITH? IS IT GROWING?

Luke 18:27 (NIV)

"What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

What to Do When You Reach "Dead End" Romans 4:17-20

I. REMEMBER WHAT GOD CAN DO

The situation may be out of your control, but **it's not out of God's control.**

Romans 4:17

"Abraham believed in God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing."

When you face things that are out of your control, you need more than a positive mental attitude. You need **faith in God.**

Luke 18:27 (NIV)

"What is impossible with men is possible with God."

II. RELY ON WHAT GOD HAS SAID

Romans 4:18 (Phillips NT)

Abraham, when hope was dead within him, went on hoping in faith, believing that he would become "the father of many nations". He relied on the word of God ...

How do you know when hope is dead?
You start using the word “**never.**”

Hebrews 11:17 (TLB)

While God was testing him, Abraham still trusted in God and his promises, and so he offered up his son Isaac...

Romans 4:18 (NIV)

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

III. FACE THE FACTS WITH FAITH

Romans 4:19-20 (NIV)

^[19] Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

^[20] Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God.

Faith is not denying reality.
Faith is **facing the facts**
without being **discouraged** by them.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, ...

IV. EXPECT GOD TO DELIVER ME

What are you **expecting** God to do?
God works in your life
according to your expectation.

Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

"According to your faith will it be done to you"

Romans 4:20-21 (TLB)

^[20] But Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened.

^[21] He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised.

The ultimate form of faith is thanking God in advance for what he is going to do. Abraham praised God for the blessing even before it happened.

2 Corinthians 1:9-10 (NIV) (Paul)

^[9] ...But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

^[10] He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.

3 Kinds of Deliverance

(1) Circumstantial

(2) Personal

(3) Ultimate (Heaven)