



## Scripture nugget - Without faith we cannot please God

*When the Advocate comes Whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, He will testify to Me. And you also testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning (John 15:26-27).*

**To witness to the truth, we must know the truth.** We live in an unprecedented era of deep deception with fake news posing as true, false ideologies posing as virtuous and compassionate, and political correctness posing as righteous behavior. We need to know the truth in order to discern the falsity of falsehoods presented to us as good and true. The eternal truths of our Christian faith are enshrined in Holy Scripture. *Your Word is Truth (John 17:17)*. To remain in the truth of God, we need to pray, study, meditate and live God's Word as written in Scripture. Scripture has the power to judge and correct our thinking, our mindset, our attitudes. God's Word has power over our bodies. *Indeed, the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)*. Christ is the Incarnate Word of God. Through a loving and prayerful study and meditation of Scripture, we understand in greater depth the truths of God and Christ's teachings, deepen the conviction of our faith, discern better God's holy will and His Hand in our daily lives, understand better the Mind and Heart of our Lord, and develop a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him. It is when we have a close, personal relationship with the Lord that we can become strong witnesses of Him and all that He stands for.

**Work out your salvation with fear and trembling (cf. Philippians 2:12).** St Paul tells us not to take our salvation for granted. Instead, we are to work at it consciously with even more solicitude and attention than for any other aspect of our life. Christ tells us that we are to love God above all things. Thus, doing God's will is the most important thing in our lives. If we give God our first priority, we will be assured that we will have whatever we need (cf. Matthew 6:33). However, if we do not treasure our priceless faith, then even the little we have can be easily lost. *For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away (Matthew 25:29)*. In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes the different ways we can lose our faith. The seed falling on the path and eaten by the bird, represents the situation when we do not take the effort to understand the teachings of our faith. If we do not know our faith, it is easy for Satan to take away our faith through his cunning temptations. When we do not work at our faith, it will be weak and shallow without deep roots and will not be able to withstand adversity or persecution. *My people are ruined for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6)*

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, thank You for the gift of my priceless faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Give me a lion's share of Your faith so that I will have a strong conviction of my faith, and be a courageous witness to the truths which You teach us. Through my loving study and meditation of God's Word, and a sincere prayerful life of sacraments, good works and sacrifices, open my heart to receive ardent, steadfast faith and final perseverance. Mary, Mother of Salvation, my model in courageous faith, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.