

## A Living Faith

Dear Student,

This fall quarter serves as a hope for eternity with God. Starting in the book of Hebrews, we outline how to live faithfully. Often times we have challenges that affect our faith and seem to provide barriers to our belief. This quarter is an instructional guide.

The testimony of the saints who have gone before us serve as motivating tools, as we persevere to our finish line. Hebrews 12 is a challenge to run. The best athletes prepare their minds and bodies by removing those elements that prohibit their success. The Hebrew writer warns us that sin will become a “snare” in our life. A snare is a trap that is designed to prohibit movement. The writer continues to spur on believers to endure their race. This analogy is a visual representation of our life and ultimate purpose. Jesus is a model for encouragement and a source of strength.

As we focus on the message from Stephen and learn from his martyrdom, these lessons are a guide for growth and development. Seek truth like the Ethiopian eunuch who was diligent to search the scriptures and willing to learn. And finally allow God to humble your heart as we read from a hero of faith, Paul. He taught and led despite persecution and affliction.

My prayer is that you boldly, unashamedly, consistently, take up your cross to follow God!

Peace,

La Nej A. Garrison, M.A.  
*Inteen*® Editor  
lgarrison@urbanministries.com

Do you have suggestions for *Inteen*®? I want to hear from you! Send your thoughts to the editor.

## theme: A Living Faith

### Bible Study Pages

#### September

- 4 Burnt Out
- 6 Be Not Discouraged
- 8 Endurance Run
- 10 A Lesson in Forgiveness

#### October

- 18 The Power of Love
- 20 Courage Speaks
- 22 Pants Up
- 24 Watch Out!
- 26 A Hand of Friendship

#### November

- 36 Taking A Stand
- 38 Action vs. Reaction
- 40 Character Revealed
- 42 Keep Sharing



### Features

- 3 Faith
- 12 On Halloween
- 28 How to Live out Your Faith in the Public Sphere
- 32 Lit Pick
- 34 Scenic
- 44 Inteen® Survey
- 45 Rap Up

**UMI MISSION STATEMENT:** We are called of God to create, produce, and distribute quality Christian education products; to deliver exemplary customer service; and to provide quality Christian educational services, which will empower God's people, especially within the Black community, to evangelize, disciple, and equip people for serving Christ, His kingdom, and church.

*Inteen® Student*, Vol. 52, No. 4, September, October, November 2022. ISSN: 1550-9346. Published quarterly by UMI (Urban Ministries, Inc.), PO Box 436987, Chicago, IL 60643-6987. Founder: Melvin E. Banks Sr., LittD; CEO: C. Jeffrey Wright, JD; Managing Editor: Daschell M. Phillips, MS; Editor: La Nej Garrison, MA; Writers: Charity G. Carter, Crystal Green, David Harris, Joi Orr, Richard Shepherd, Jordan Steward, LaTonya Summers, Kyle Waalen, Vernon Woodard. Lesson Development. Copyright © 2022 by UMI. All rights reserved. All Scripture not marked KJV is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ All proper names mentioned in this publication are fictional unless otherwise indicated. Printed in South Korea. \$3.89 per copy. Single subscriptions: one year \$34.99 (postage included). To order: Contact your local Christian bookstore; call UMI at 1-800-860-8642; or visit our website at [www.urbanministries.com](http://www.urbanministries.com). **NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER.**

# Faith

By David Harris

Walking through the valley of the shadow of death.  
I know this 'cause my Lord has just put me in a test.  
Don't listen to these liars; they will end up in hot fires.  
Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth—it's called my BIBLE.

Never stray away from Jesus and all of my teachers.  
Blasphemous preachers causing trouble for one reason:  
Death despairs evil without care.  
But with God we can do anything anywhere.

Everywhere I go I know the Lord; He is with me.  
We all have free will so I believe like Ripley,  
And I have complete confidence in my Lord Almighty.  
When I read my Bible I just do it like Nike.

I have a strong belief in Him to forgive me of all my sins.  
'Cause He is undefeated like a long streak of wins.

Feeling good about the Lord 'cause my faith right here is strong.  
He tells me where to go and what is right and wrong.  
And to the nonbelievers, they can come and tag along.  
Because the feeling of victory, it will last life long.

Luke 1:37 says, ...“ with God all is possible,”...  
And I learned from the Word that all mistakes, they are washable.  
This is unstoppable, obstacle; He is really phenomenal.  
And to think that I will be without faith—  
The thought is improbable.

## 9.4 Burnt Out

the big idea: Faith Calls for Perseverance



**A**fter school, T.J. ran down the sidewalk to catch up with Marcus.

“Slow down, Marcus,” T.J. said, catching his breath. “What’s the rush?”

“Got stuff to do,” Marcus said, fidgeting with his backpack.

“Me, too. Mr. Adams gave my English class a ton of homework,” T.J. said. “Are you still coming to Bible study tonight? I haven’t seen you there in a couple weeks.”

“Naw,” Marcus said. “I don’t think I’m coming back.”

T.J. stared at his friend and tried to read his expression. Marcus simply looked away and kept his head down as they turned the corner and walked down Marcus’ street.

“What’s up with you, Marcus?” T.J. asked. “You haven’t been yourself lately.”

Marcus shrugged his shoulders. “I dunno. Just a little burnt out. That’s all.”

“Bible study is a great place to rejuvenate and focus on the Lord,” T.J. said.

“It’s nice to leave your stress at the door and dive into God’s Word.”

“I guess,” Marcus said. “With all the stuff I’ve been dealing with, sometimes I wonder if God is even there—if He even cares about me and my stupid problems.”

“Of course He does,” T.J. said.

“We can’t let this world get us down. It’s temporary, but Christ’s love is eternal. God wants us to be closer to Him and learn about Him more. He should be the focus of our lives.”

“It just gets so hard, ya’ know?” Marcus said. “School, sports, my job, and issues at home—it’s overwhelming.”

### from your Bible

**Hebrews 10:19–31, NIV**—Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,<sup>29</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full

assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.<sup>23</sup> **Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,<sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day

approaching.<sup>26</sup> If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,<sup>27</sup> but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.<sup>28</sup> Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.<sup>29</sup> How much more severely do you think someone deserves to

be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?<sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."<sup>31</sup> It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## Scripture discussion

In today's passage, the writer of Hebrews discusses the practical implication of the life of Jesus. How do His life, death, and Resurrection affect the religious communities? In the opening passages, it clarifies that the veil has been torn, meaning that everyone who wants to get to God, can have access through His Son. When Christ died on the Cross, He made the ultimate sacrifice and restored the divide that sin had created between humankind and God. Animal sacrifices, an Old Testament practice, were no longer necessary, and there was no longer a "curtain" separating people from

God. It is because of Christ's sacrifice that we as Christians have hope. The writer continues to explain, how God's fulfillment of His promises gives us hope, so we must hold on! The early Christian church experienced persecution and pain, but the writer reminds them that our end is eternity. The writer of Hebrews tells us that through faith and because of the blood of Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we can experience the presence of God in a new, life-giving way. In our story, Marcus was overwhelmed by his earthly life and didn't know what to do. Instead of clinging to his faith in the Lord, he was drifting away from God. T.J. reminded Marcus that he was not alone and that God gives people hope to carry on.

## make it real



### check it

1. Why was T.J. concerned about Marcus?
2. What was bothering Marcus?
3. Why did T.J. think Marcus should come to Bible study?



### think it

1. What are we to hold to unswervingly? (Hebrews 10:23)
2. What happens if we deliberately keep sinning? (v. 26)
3. What is the significance of verse Hebrews 10:29?



### do it

In today's passage, you are challenged to hold on to your faith as you remember God's fulfillment of His Word. What challenges do you face, that threatened to rob you of your hope. Discuss with another person; share and encourage each other.



### keep it

**"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23, NIV).**

## 9.11 Be Not Discouraged

the big idea: Faith Is Assurance



**A**manda spent every Saturday morning unpacking boxes and stocking the shelves at the local food pantry. She tried to get some of her friends to volunteer with her, but no one ever came. She decided to ask Mr. Winslow, the food pantry manager, for some advice.

“Hi, Amanda,” Mr. Winslow said, as he took inventory. “How are things going?”

Amanda hesitated. “Do you ever get discouraged working here?”

Mr. Winslow looked up from his clipboard. “What do you mean?”

“There are so many people out there who need food,” Amanda said, “and the demand is overwhelming. It seems like very few people are willing to help, and I know dona-

tions this year have dropped a lot. How do we keep up?”

“Times may get tough,” Mr. Winslow said, “but that doesn’t mean God isn’t in control. And that doesn’t mean we give up and stop doing His work.”

“But things are pretty bad right now,” Amanda said.

“I must admit that things haven’t been this bad in a long time,” Mr. Winslow said, “but God is here with us. Times change, but God doesn’t.”

Amanda nodded in agreement. “I guess it’s hard to remember sometimes.”

“Very true,” Mr. Winslow said. “We must always remember to trust in God and seek refuge in Him. Not only should we remember, but we must help others remember, too.”

from your Bible

Hebrews 11:1–3, 6; Psalm 46:1–3, 8–11, NIV—  
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and as-

surance about what we do not see.<sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**Psalms 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

**46:8** Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.<sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."<sup>11</sup> The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## Scripture discussion

God is the Creator of all things, and He is in complete control. This is an important truth because the cause of the universe determines our purpose within the universe. You are not an accident, and neither is humanity the result of a random series of accidental events. No matter what happens—natural disasters, disease, or poverty—God is still sovereign. Our ability to understand the trial does not remove the trial. When we are faced with trials, God is our refuge and strength. We can trust that God is with us. What a comfort it is to have the

Almighty God on our side! Therefore, do not be afraid and do not be discouraged.

Because of all the conflicts in the world, people may lose hope for positive change. According to the writers of Hebrews and Psalms, the Lord is with us and remains the source of our hope. In today's story, Amanda was struggling with the poverty crisis. She was overwhelmed by this huge problem and didn't know what to do. Have you ever felt this way? The media is filled with negative images that promote despair and hopelessness. No matter what happens, God is in control. It is important to trust in the Lord and keep doing His work, no matter how daunting the task may seem.

## make it real



### check it

1. Why was Amanda so discouraged?
2. Why was Mr. Winslow not discouraged?
3. How does the situation in the story apply to today's culture?



### think it

1. What are the characteristics of faith described in Hebrews 1:1–3?
2. What role do the elders play? (v.2)
3. How are the verses in Psalm 46 comforting to Christians?



### do it

In today's passage, we explore the truth about Creation and its implications. Discuss the various "creation" stories. What does this mean for humanity if any of them are true? How is the Gospel different?



### keep it

**"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1, NIV).**