

# Influence Ministries

## FIVE THINGS GOD USES TO GROW YOUR FAITH

### LESSON 1

#### TITLE: INTRODUCTION.

I want to ask you to use your imagination.

This is like everybody gets to play, and here's what I want you to do.

I want you to imagine what your life would be like if you had absolute confidence,

I mean absolute, perfect confidence and assurance that

(1) there really is a God,

(2) that it's a personal God who knows your name, and

(3) that it's a God that will walk beside you every day and has promised to never leave you or forsake you and to see you through, over, and around everything that comes your way.

Imagine if you had that kind of faith. Where and when things are really, really bad,

you say, Well, nothing I can do about that, but I can trust in God to see me through and to walk with me right through that.

You're like, God, I believe you brought that my way, and I just have absolute, perfect faith that you are just going to see me through this.

What if you had just that kind of amazing, out-of-the-box faith, that no matter what happened you just trusted God?

You just trusted God when things got worse and worse and worse. You just said,

God knows this is going on.

God has a perfect will for my life.

And you were just totally at peace. Imagine no fear. I mean things are bad, and it's like, God knew this was going to happen; I'm just trusting God and we'll see what God does.

No anxiety.

Why should I be nervous?

Why should I be afraid?

I just have absolute perfect faith in God.

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Imagine you just had this unbelievable faith that God was with you, around you, working through you, seeing you through. Imagine that kind of faith.

But when you meet a person that has extraordinary, I mean, big old, out- of-the-box, mind-boggling faith. Even if you are not a God kind of person, there's something very attractive about that.

That's where God wants to take you.

When you read the Old and the New Testament, the story of the Scripture is God trying to build into people an extraordinary, out-of-the box, over the top, are you kidding me kind of confidence in him.

The thing that broke the relationship between God and man was man's refusal to trust God.

God's heart's desire is to draw you into a—key word—relationship that is built around absolute, perfect confidence.

God wants you to have really, really, really big faith in him.

Imagine if you woke up every day with that kind of confidence. Everything about our lives and relationships—our money, our anxiety, our outlook, our friends, our enemies, our work, our school, everything would be impacted if we woke up with that kind of confidence in God.

What God wants for you is to blow your faith up big and to give you big faith.

The best relationships are relationships that are characterized by, You know what?

I trust you when you did what I thought you were going to do.

I trust you when it didn't look like you were going to do what I thought you were going to.

I trust you when you came through.

I trust you when you're late . . . I just trust you.

And if it doesn't look like you're going to do what you said you were going to do,

my first response is . . . I just trust you. I just have that much confidence in you.

God wants a relationship characterized by:

You know what,	I trust you.
I don't always understand you.	I trust you.
You don't always answer my prayers.	I trust you.
Life doesn't always go my way,	I trust you.
but why fear; you're on my side.	I trust you.

God is ultimately in control.

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*Matt 8:5-6*

*<sup>5</sup> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup> saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."*

This is the only time in the Bible that I've found where Jesus is amazed by something somebody else does. And now a lot of people are amazed at what Jesus does, and in this particular passage, this is the first time you ever see Jesus go, WOW.

*Matthew 8:8*

*But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

Complete trust/faith in Jesus

*Matthew 8:10*

*I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.*

You know what blows Jesus 'mind? Big faith. You know what moved Jesus? Big faith.

The thing that makes God jump up and down is your faith. The thing that is most honoring to God is your faith.

These are the five faith catalysts that God uses to blow up our faith.

**Practical teaching**—basically, practical biblical teaching, that when somebody tells his or her faith journey story,

**Providential relationships.** When anyone tells his or her story, part of the story is, And then I met this girl; then I met this guy; then we met this couple; then my boss came to me and started asking me questions.

**Private disciplines.** This being that part of your life, if you have been a Christian for very long, where somebody taught you how to spend time alone with God. Somebody encouraged you to begin praying on a regular basis.

**Personal ministry.** You hear people tell their story, and if you were to tell the story, generally part of the story is, And then they asked me to teach; and then they asked me to volunteer.

**Pivotal circumstances.** When somebody tells the story of God blowing his or her faith up big, usually in that story something big happened.