
The Pursuit of Holiness

Building a Practical Faith

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, May 20, 2018*

Wouldn't It Be Great If the Bible Spoke To Me
As Loudly as My Negative Thoughts?

Applying My Faith to My Problems

My Faith Just Needs A Practical Way

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” *Romans 8:28, NLT*

1. Normally We Start with The Wrong Questions When We Are Tested
2. Take Up The Rule of Faith:
3. Look for the Truth

The Lies We Tell Ourselves Keep Us Stuck
Look for The Evidence That Your Thought Is True

The Lies Tend to Be Ridged and Global

4. Add a But...

But... Is a Way of Adding Truth to Soften
My Pain & Change My Focus

¹³ **But** rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed

"Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later." *Romans 8:18, NLT*

¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler

Here Is Another Way of Using "But..."

¹⁶ **Yet** if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, **but** let him glorify God in that name

I Am To Change The Way I Act
In The Context of My Problem

If I Am a Christian, I Need to Start Acting Saved

5. Participate in the Transformation

When Life Sucks ...

Turn to God, Not Away

"**Don't be afraid**, for I am with you. **Don't be discouraged**, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you.** I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." *Isaiah 41:10, NLT*

Let Go & Let God

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.” 1 Peter 5:7, NLT

Pray More and More Specifically

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. **Tell God what you need, and **thank him** for all he has done. **Then you will experience God’s peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6, NLT***

Discover the Sufficiency of God’s Grace

“Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.” *2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT*

I Will Never See and Experience the Power of God
Without the Times Where My Life Is Falling Apart

Don’t Give Up – Give It Over

¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.