

## Living in Hope with the One Leader Study Series

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### **Title: Overcoming Doubt in the Midst of Uncertainty**

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We all have times of doubt and our faith wavers. In times of uncertainty this doubt is multiplied. From here we begin to ask questions such as: Do I really believe? What do I believe? If God is real, where is He in the trials? Why do bad things happen?

#### **Times of challenges and storms reveal our faith and what our faith is built on.**

**Matthew 7:24-28** says, *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”*

Jesus teaches that there are two types of people: wise people who hear and act and foolish people who hear and don't act (doubt and fear). The hearing is of God's words and the action is that of obedience and faith. This is equated to building a house on one of two foundations: rock or sand.

What distinguishes these two types of people and their houses is revealed by the storms and floods that Jesus teaches will come. This is a given in life; we all will be tested and go through trials. Jesus notes there are two outcomes: one house stands up to the storms, and one house is destroyed by them. These outcomes are based on the kind of foundation upon which the house was built—faith and obedience versus doubt and fear.

#### **So how do we overcome doubt and walk by faith?**

**2 Corinthians 5:6-8** says, *“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord,—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage....”*

#### **How do we grow our faith and walk by it?**

#### **LOOK UP**

We look to the Lord and who He is and His nature. **Philemon 1:5** says, *“I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus.”*

We look to His Word which is rooted in history. **Romans 10:17** says, *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*

We look to the Lord's promises which are true, and we can believe in them. **2 Corinthians 1:20** says, *“For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.”*

## LOOK WITHIN

When we exercise faith, we experience peace and the fruit of the Spirit. **Romans 5:1** says, *“I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus. Galatians 5:22-23* says, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

## LOOK BACK

Our faith grows and is solidified when we look back and remember all that God has done. **Psalm 111:4** says, *“He has made His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.”* **Joshua 4:7** says, *“So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever.”*

## LOOK AROUND

Seeing God at work grows our faith. **Psalm 66:5** says, *“Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.”*

We see and hear of God's working through others. **John 9:3** says, *“Jesus answered, ‘It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.’”*

Look around and see what God has provided and be thankful. **2 Thessalonians 1:3** says, *“We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.”*

## LOOK AHEAD

Faith grows when we clarify our hope. **Hebrews 11:1** says, *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*

**The Promise:** **Matthew 21:21** says, *“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen.”*

**God calls us to be people of faith despite the circumstances and storms of life. Keep LOOKING!**

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