

# Faith

## A confident, active trust in God.



Christians know that they are saved by faith. That faith in Jesus Christ is the key to eternal life with Christ and our walk with Christ in this world. But too often we don't see the fruit of that faith in our marriages - we don't see that *confident, active trust in God* in couples as they live out their lives together. Their faith may be in themselves; their focus is on their works and what they do in the marriage relationship. Time and time again, we see this in counseling with one spouse saying, 'what about him (or her)? I do all these things in the relationship; they do... (the negative list goes on and on). Or one's faith is in his or her spouse. Their spouse must measure up to their expectations. When the spouse fails or doesn't measure up, the expectant spouse is crushed, hurt, angry - that list goes on also. Very often, we do not see an active faith in God lived out in the marriage relationship.

James wrote that faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26). We may claim to have faith; to trust in God, but if that doesn't translate into actions, what good is that faith? Jeremy Bennett wrote that "dead faith and stagnant marriages share a common trait. They rely on memory instead of motion." People are focused on the past, rather than on being the hands and feet of Christ. Our faith, *our confident, active trust in God* should be seen in the way we treat our spouse; in our actions in life and in the marriage. Genuine faith should produce action - it should be *seen* in our lives. Do we have faith, a trust in God when we treat our spouse badly? When we do not love him or her as Jesus has commanded us to love them? By giving of ourselves; dying to self?

Friends, it is time for our faith to be *demonstrated*, that we as the Church rise up and be *different* than the world! That we be *transformed* by our faith, our trust in God. How can we be a testimony of God's love when we don't extend His love even to our spouse? The person, who once upon a time, we committed to loving until death separates us. Demonstrate your faith in God, in Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for you and has commanded you to love your spouse as He loves you, by giving of yourself for him or her.

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow closer together.

**Article to check out:**

**Faith That Moves and Marriages That Live** by Jeremy Bennett - [gracemarriage.com](http://gracemarriage.com)