

Experiencing A Lack of Faith

1 Samuel 27-28:2

1. Reason: Present Experience vs. 1-2

David's struggle with doubt became overwhelming from living under distressing circumstances while struggling in how to apply God's promise of becoming king of Israel. This struggle led him to hopelessness, discouragement and the decision to escape to the land of the Philistines.

The attempt to understand our present experience while learning how to apply God's promises can lead to unbelief. Having moments of doubt while we try to understand God's will can take place when our faith is not completely mature. (example: Job in the book of Job).

2. Remember: God comes alongside the weak vs. 3-12; 8:1-2

Although David began to struggle with serious doubt as to whether he will survive long enough to be crowned king in Israel before God arranges Saul's demise, God did not depart from David but continued to display grace through providing David success so that his faith may mature.

God's response is one of faithfulness to those who are experiencing weakness and those who are lacking faith. God is one of grace and encouragement so that their faith may mature. (Mark 9).

Questions:

- David's lack of faith is observed in verse 1 when it states that "But David thought to himself...". David has faith in God, but he is having trouble applying God's Word to his present circumstances. When in your life have you lacked faith because of a circumstance that you were experiencing?
- Lack of faith takes place because our faith is still in the process of maturing. A mature faith has a better understanding in how to apply God's Word to our present circumstances. Is there a passage in the Bible that you need some help to understand or to apply to your life? Please let someone know who is able to effectively bring clarity to the passage.
- How would you counsel someone who was facing a difficult experience such as a difficult medical diagnosis, or experiencing financial difficulty, or intense rejection for their faith, or having a hard time coping with their emotional health. In each of those possible situations, how would you encourage them when they are lacking faith in those moments? What Scriptures would you use? How would you teach this person to correctly apply those Scriptures to their current situation?
- In those past moments of doubt or lack of faith, how did God faithfully come along side you which allowed your faith to mature?