LORD INCREASE OUR FAITH
2 Peter 1:3,4

Introduction: 1) The disciples asked Jesus many times to increase their faith 2) I would think every believer knows that we need to increase our faith and this is the issue I want to zero in upon today

I. Measuring the strength of our faith
   A. Our faith is not easy to measure when everything in life is going reasonably well and our serving the Lord is relatively easy and joyful
   B. Our faith is tested and measured during times of tribulation and when serving Jesus is not as easy and joyful
      1. It measures the genuineness of your faith
         - 1 Peter 1:3-7 (the parable of the sower, book of Hebrews)
      2. It also measures the strength of your faith
         - 1 Peter 1:8,9 (notice it says believe in him)
      3. When your faith is strong you do not lose your ability to rejoice in the Lord. When you lose your ability to rejoice in the Lord, when joy decreases or is gone then it indicates your faith needs further growth (rejoice in the Lord always, God used circumstances to increase Job’s faith)
      4. The entire purpose of faith is glorify Jesus

II. How to Increase your faith
   A. The crucial role the promises of God play in faith
      1. They are in the instruments God uses to
give us life and godliness - 2 Peter 1:3, 4

2. They are used by God to keep us persevering in the faith - Hebrews 10:35-39; 11:1, 13, 39, 40; 12:1, 2 (faith clings to hope)

B. The promises of God will become more precious to you the more you know the giver of those promises

1. It enables us to endure trials and times when serving the Lord isn’t as enjoyable - 1 Peter 1:8
2. It through a growing walk with Christ that the promises grow in their preciousness and power to us -

A. Promises are only as good as the giver of the promises

B. The closer you walk with God the more of his glory and excellence you experience and see and that is transformative so that the promises of God become precious to you and thus your faith grows in the Lord - 2 Peter 1:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Enoch walked with God, David man after God’s own heart, the more the disciples saw of Jesus the more glorious and excellent he became to them so that they were transformed following the resurrection of Jesus)

Conclusion: 1) There is only one way to walk with God, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, reading, studying, meditating, listening to, and prayer. 2) What can motivate prayer, a desire to know the Lord better, understand you are as far as God is concerned translated to the throne of grace when you pray, you can’t get closer to Christ in this life than that. Being in his presence will
change you and increase your faith as you ask God to fulfill his promises and then see him do exactly what he says he will do. I have seen it over and over again and yet I still need my faith to increase. 3) Do you have any faith? Do you need for your faith to increase or are you backsidden and satisfied with your faith as it is? Do you live a life where you are constantly filled with anxiety, depression, anger, and many negative emotions, they are testifying to others of your lack of trust in the Lord. Do you grumble and complain a lot when things don’t go right? What happens when your circumstances turn poor or your not as joyful in serving the Lord, I know many simply turn to the answer that quitting serving the Lord is the answer. It is not, it is increasing your faith so that the Lord will be praised and glorified when he comes. Let us serve the Lord with gladness and when our gladness is gone let us increase our faith.