

Faith Blockers

1. There are nine (9) obstacles a believer must overcome in the walk of faith. These obstacles we will call *faith blockers*. They are:
 1. A wrong view of God
 2. Fear
 3. Feelings
 4. Doubt
 5. Reason
 6. Sacrifice
 7. False Confession
 8. Works
 9. Ignorance

2. Read Ephesians 6:16.
What does Paul say that the evil one will throw at the believer?

What is the believer to take up to protect himself from these?

3. If you are to be successful in your walk of faith, you must learn how the evil one keeps you from putting up your shield. Some of these faith blockers are improper thinking: wrong view of God, fear, doubt, reason, and ignorance. Other blockers are wrong actions: sacrifice, works, and false confession. Feelings can be improper emotions based on faulty thinking.

4. **Faith Blocker 1: A wrong view of God**

Read Deuteronomy 1: 27. What did they believe about God?

Is it possible to trust a God that hates you? _____

The character of God, as described in Scripture, forms the basis for a life of faith that has power. On the following page you will see a list of verses following a specific name of God. The name is the Hebrew name for God that is formed by putting *EL* (*meaning god*) and the descriptive word for the characteristic of God that applies to the situation. In the space provided, write a description of God.

Genesis 17:1; El Shaddai _____

Joshua 24:19; El Qanno _____

Genesis 16:13; El Roi _____

Some names begin with Yahweh or Jehovah (*as we usually say it*). The word means the LORD.

Genesis 22:14; Jehovah Jireh _____

Exodus 15:26; Jehovah Rapha _____

Psalms 23:1; Jehovah Rohi _____

Jeremiah 23:6; Jehovah Tsidkenu _____

Judges 6:24; Jehovah Shalom _____

Ezekiel 48:35; Jehovah Shammah _____

The following are descriptions of God's character that need to be deep in the disciple's spirit:

Deuteronomy 32:4 _____

Job 36:3 _____

2 Samuel 22:3 _____

Psalms 19:14 _____

Genesis 18:25 _____

1 Samuel 12:12 _____

1 Samuel 15:29 _____

Review the previous verses and write down how the character of God can help you in your faith walk.

5. Faith Blocker 2: Fear

Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Fear is actually the opposite of faith. Fear says that God cannot, when faith says that He can. The Bible is full of illustrations of people controlled by fear. Consider the following:

Elijah, in 1 Kings 19:1-4, was controlled by his fear of a woman.

Who was the woman? _____

Read 1 Kings 18 and note his great feat of faith. There will be times when you will demonstrate great faith, followed by failure! Don't be too hard on either Elijah, or yourself. When you fail, God will be there to pick you up and send you along. Remember to forgive yourself and walk by faith, again!

Fear steals our confidence in God. It gets us looking at the enemy, the problem, the obstacle, the situation, and rules our emotions.

Read Numbers 13

According to verse 33, what did they view themselves as?

What is a giant able to do to a grasshopper? _____

They were controlled by their fear. Were they full of faith? _____

Were their eyes on God and His character? _____

All they could see were the giants—and fear ruled their actions!

Overcoming fear will be a battle you will fight constantly. In fact, there will be times when you will not even know that fear is ruling you. A good habit to get into is to ask yourself, ***“What is hindering me from obeying the Lord?”*** Listen for a response from the Lord, or even your own spirit. If fear is the answer, then ask what you are afraid of. Some of the possibilities could be:

- Fear of reprisal. What will happen to me if I obey?
- Fear of reputation. What will people think of me?
- Fear of failure. What if it doesn't work out?
- Fear of man. What will people do to me?
- Fear of success. What if it does work? What then?
- Fear of myself. Was it really God who told me?
- Fear of words. What they said to me makes me afraid.

6. Faith Blocker 3: Feelings

While it is true that fear is a feeling, I have separated it out because it is so powerful and needed to be discussed on its own. Feelings can be the enemy of faith. Your feelings are not a legitimate evidence of your life of faith.

Many believers fail to follow God, waiting for the right emotion to come along.

- Suppose God tells you to get up and read the Word at 3:30 in the morning!! Will you wait to feel like getting up?
- Suppose God leads you to teach a Sunday School class. Will you obey, or wait until you feel excited enough to do it?
- Suppose the Lord tells you to confront a brother or sister in the Lord about a sin in his/her life. Obeying will not feel good because most people do not like confrontation. Will you confront the person, or wait till you feel courageous?

Ask the Lord to give you courage. Read Joshua 1. What did God command Joshua to have? (verses 7, 9) _____

Courage is the ability to choose to do right even when you do not feel like it. Only a fool would say they have no fear. But a person of faith overcomes fear, and any other debilitating emotion, and obeys God anyway!

7. Faith Blocker 4: Doubt

God hates doubt. Doubt is the expression of the heart that attacks God's character directly. We tend to think that doubt is no big deal. But with God, doubt is very serious!

Read James 1:6-7. The picture here is of a person who is going back and forth, back and forth. Yes-No-Yes-No-Yes-No!!! God is good-no He's not!
Can you imagine how that must make God feel?

Read Matthew 14:25- 31. What was Peter doing? _____

Remember, Peter was walking on the water!!! Have you? Neither have I! ***But his doubt caused him to sink.*** Our doubt will de-activate the power of God in our lives. We will begin to sink just as if we had no faith at all. Our lives will be as impotent as unbelievers' lives!
Are faith blockers keeping you from walking by faith. Renounce your blockers and live by faith!

What are you believing God for today? _____

8. Faith Blocker 5: Reason

There are times when God asks you to do something that appears unreasonable. When a disciple begins to question God, faith is squelched. Be assured that God knows what is best for you.

Often you will not know everything that He is doing. It is much like being in an army. You obey your orders; others obey theirs, and the general is in control. God is our General!

The world operates on common sense, never considering spiritual truths. When God calls you to obey Him, often your human nature will disagree and appear as reasonable. You will then be tempted to be more concerned about proving your faith is sensible to yourself and to others. The desire to appear right before other people will hinder faith. The only one we should be concerned about pleasing is the Lord.

There are two voltages in your home. One is 110 volts; the other is 220 volts. If you plug an appliance that is 220 volts into a 110 volt socket it will not work! You are a “220” disciple of Jesus and cannot plug into “110.”

Read Galatians **1:10**.

Paul says that if he was seeking to please men he would not be a _____ of Jesus.

You cannot *reason* your life to please others. You must walk by faith.

Read Galatians **2:20**.

Who has been crucified? _____

According to this verse, who lives in you? _____

How are you to live the life in the flesh? _____

You live by faith in the Son of God who loved you, and delivered Himself up for you.
Trust Him!

9. Faith Blocker 6: Sacrifice

Have you ever heard a believer go on and on about how much they are suffering for Jesus—doing without this, and that, and this, and that?! Some love to talk about how they “*toil on*” for Jesus, sacrificing everything for Him.

In the Dark Ages monasteries were established so that some could escape from the evil world around them. They sacrificed worldly pleasures, clothes, food, conveniences, even relationships, in order to serve God. They ***substituted sacrifice for faith***.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-24

Did Saul obey ***all*** that the Lord commanded him? _____

What did he allow to happen? _____

Who did he blame for the disobedience? v. 21 _____

What is better than sacrifice? _____

According to verse 23, God equates rebellion (*disobeying the clear leadership of the Lord*) with divination (*using mediums to get in contact with the spirit world*). God hates divination—see Deuteronomy 18:10-12. Any time we disobey God’s leadership and replace obedience with some sacrifice, God equates our insubordination with iniquity, idolatry, and divination! ***Pretty serious, isn’t it?***

Of whom was Saul afraid? 1 Samuel 15:24 _____

Don’t look for *reason* to give you confidence. You must obey the Lord’s leading because He is God and you are His servant.

10. Faith Blocker 7: False Confession

Read Hebrews 4:14.

What are we to hold onto? _____

We can block faith by what we say; and we can build faith by what we say. You will be tempted to say that what you **see** is truth, when in fact, truth is what God says—not what you see! Remember, faith is the evidence of things **not seen!** Reread Hebrews 11:1.

It is a proven fact that children live up to, or down to, what they hear about themselves. If you continually tell a child that he or she is stupid, the child will believe it to be so, and it will be so!

If you hear from the Lord while reading the Scripture, and you intend to obey the Lord, but you speak the opposite of obedience—you will **not** obey! You cannot act inconsistent with what you speak for very long.

We become what we focus on, and our words focus our minds. If we speak words of assurance, confidence, and faith, we will become full of faith. Our actions will follow our faith-filled words! If we speak doubt, fear, and unbelief, we will fail to obey. We hear from God in our spirit, through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. But if our mind operates in the flesh we will speak contrary to our spirit. This produces anxiety and confusion. Read James 1:6-8 again.

What can a disciple expect from the Lord if his spirit speaks faith but his mind and tongue speak unbelief? _____

11. Faith Blocker 8: Works

While studying the New Testament, Martin Luther had great difficulty with the Book of James. With his absolute adherence to a life of faith he felt that James put too much emphasis on works. In his former church, the Roman Catholic Church, he found that works were demanded to please God, contrary to the Word of God. However, the relationship between faith and works is quite clear. Works follow faith.

Read James 2:14, 17.

Can a faith that does not have works be saving faith? _____

Read Romans 14:23. If it is not of faith, it is _____

It is always a temptation to replace faith with works because works done in the power of the flesh are much easier. The mind, will, and emotions are used to obeying the flesh. It is the disciple's responsibility to choose to obey the Spirit and operate by faith. Do not replace obedience with activities of the flesh.

Giving, singing, preaching, teaching, serving, can all be done as self-righteous works of the flesh rather than faith. They become faith when they are done in the power of the Spirit and in obedience to the Lord.

Read Isaiah 1:10-20. God is tired of works without faith. The Israelites were simply going through the motions of obedience and God was sickened.

According to verse 13, what can God not endure? _____

Write down the verbs in verse 16-17.

W _____ yourselves

Make yourselves _____

Remove the _____ of your deeds

_____ to do evil

_____ to do good

_____ justice

_____ the ruthless

_____ orphan

_____ widow

God expects us to operate in faith. If we do not, we must repent!

12. Faith Blocker 9: Ignorance

It is impossible to believe what you do not know! Read Romans 10:17.

How does faith come? _____

How does hearing come? _____

You must know the Word of God to build your faith. In order to put your trust in God you must know Him well. The devil will tear apart your faith by downgrading God's character. Only a solid understanding of the Scriptures will protect you from the evil one's attempts to distort God.

Faith rests on a word from God, which is established by the character of God. His word is no better than His character. You put your faith in the character of God that you know from the Word of God, and your personal experience with Him. Ignorance steals faith before it can get started. Don't be ignorant!

Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15.

Study to shew yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Why should you study the Word of God?

13. Rank the nine blockers. (1) would be the blocker the devil uses most against you; (9) would be used the least.

_____ A wrong view of God

_____ Fear

_____ Feelings

_____ Doubt

_____ Reason

_____ Sacrifice

_____ False Confession

_____ Works

_____ Ignorance

14. What are you believing God for today?
