



Celebrating Faith:

Personal Trust

Devotional guide

Exploring faith with the
Rev Keith V Garner AM

Explore your faith with 'Celebrating Faith' devotional plan series at
wesleymission.org.au/celebratingfaith

Celebrating Faith

Life is filled with times of joy and times of difficulty. Amidst the storms of life, we can too easily fall into the temptation of seeing our circumstances as defined by this difficulty rather than by opportunity.

Our faith in God gives us the confidence to trust that there is always a meaningful future ahead. Faith enables you to discover purpose and knowing Him provides hope, even in the darkest of moments. Faith in God also places you in a community where others who share this faith are there to encourage and support.

The journey of life is never easy, but when we build a strong relationship with God we see His love, provision and grace even when times are tough. The assurance we receive as followers of Jesus Christ is certainly worth celebrating.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith V Garner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Rev Keith V Garner AM
CEO/Superintendent

How to use this devotional guide...

For each day there is a Bible reference, a thought and a prayer.

- If you have only a few minutes, simply read the entry each day and carry those thoughts with you.
- If you have more time, prayerfully read through the complete Bible passage and thought. Spend some time meditating and reflecting on it and then start your prayer.

Personal Trust

There is no doubt that today we see in the realm of politics, and even in friendships and families, there can be a fearful lack of the ability to trust one another. Trust is very closely aligned to faith and so for Christians the need for personal trust is absolutely essential if we are to grow in our discipleship and understanding of God's love in our lives.

Any exploration of personal trust in our Christian lives is in direct response to the love that God has shown us in Jesus Christ. Faithfulness is the quality that characterises a person who lives in this kind of relationship.

One writer I recall saying, "Quit sweating, quit wrestling, it's not TRY but TRUST."

As we grow in faith and live out the life that God opens up for us, we learn to trust him more. I would like to think that this also makes it possible for us to trust people more. As I seek to share the life of following Christ, I cannot talk about it without speaking of the importance of trusting God and caring for others.

Day 1

God loves you

Bible verse:

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19 NIV

Thought: The Bible tells us that God loves us and cares for us. In fact, from before you were born until today, God has looked over your life with the affection and kindness of a loving creator.

The story of Moses in Exodus 2:23-25 demonstrates God's love for his people.

After the king of Egypt died, Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites and tried to kill their children because he was afraid of their growing numbers. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried for help, and we read that God heard their cry and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. He was concerned about their suffering and planned to rescue them with the help of Moses (Exodus 3:7).

The Bible is filled with stories of God's love for His people. You can have confidence that God also cares for you, no matter what circumstances you may be facing. Put your trust in him today.

Prayer: God, thank you that you care for me. Help me to know your love in my life and trust you more each day. Amen.

Day 2

Do you truly trust God?

Bible verse:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 NIV

Thought: When life is difficult and hope is hard to come by, it's not always easy to trust in God's promises for us.

Moses was a man of great faith, but even he struggled with doubts and uncertainty over the promises of God.

In Exodus 3:12, God made a promise to Moses, saying, "I will be with you". But just one chapter later, we read that Moses doubted that God would really come through for him, asking, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?" (Exodus 4:1).

God calls us to trust in him, even when the future is uncertain. But be encouraged, it is not the strength of your personal trust in God that matters most, rather it is the strength of the one you are trusting in that makes all the difference.

Prayer: God, sometimes I doubt your promises to me. In those times, please strengthen my faith, and help me to have a deep and abiding trust in you.

Day 3

Dealing with doubt

Bible verse:

Everything is possible for one who believes.

Mark 9:23b NIV

Thought: When we experience doubt in our lives about God's goodness or his faithfulness, it can eat away at our faith and lead to despair.

This is what happened to Moses when he was asked by God to speak to the powerful ruler of Egypt, Pharaoh.

Moses raised objections to God's rescue plan, and especially his role as leader of the rescue. But God proved to Moses that he could be trusted by performing a miracle, transforming Moses's staff into a snake.

Sometimes we struggle to trust God because we think we lack proof. But you and I, living on this side of the resurrection, have the best proof of all that we can trust God – the living Lord Jesus.

His death and resurrection are the best possible evidence that God can be trusted.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus. When I doubt you, remind me of his life-giving death on the cross and help me to trust your promises. Amen.

Day 4

Faith in action

Bible verse:

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:17 NIV

Thought: The educator and author, Booker T. Washington said, “The world cares very little about what a man or woman knows, it is what a man or woman is able to do that counts.”

Just look at Moses as an example. He was a fugitive from Egypt living in Midian until God revealed his plan to rescue the Israelites from Egypt. Moses was afraid and filled with doubt about God’s rescue plan (Exodus 4:1), but he still obeyed and stepped forward in faith.

Moses acted on his faith, trusting that God would be with him as he headed back to Egypt to rescue the Israelites.

True faith is shown through our actions. When we rely on God, we too can step forward and take hold of the life he has planned for us.

Prayer: Thank you Lord that you promise to be with me throughout every moment of my life. Help me to take a step of faith today, that I might trust you and obey you, even when I feel uncertain.

Day 5

Growing in faith

Bible verse:

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV

Thought: One of the most wonderful things about trusting in God is the way he rewards your faith. The more you trust in him, the more you see his promises fulfilled, the deeper your faith becomes.

This deepening trust is well illustrated in Exodus as Moses and his brother Aaron put their trust in God time after time, asking Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.

In response to their faith, God remains true to his promises, working powerful miracles through Moses that reveal his strength and power to the Egyptians. Moses' faith continues to grow bolder, and eventually God redeems the Israelites and brings them safely out of slavery.

The more you put your faith in God, the more you will see your personal trust in Him grow as he works powerfully in your life.

Prayer: God, please give me a bold faith that is always getting stronger. When I feel like shrinking back, help me instead to move forward with confidence, knowing you promise to stay beside me.

Please join us for the next service in the 'Celebrating Faith' series

The way that leads to purpose

6 pm Sunday 5 May

Wesley Theatre

220 Pitt Street, Sydney

If you would like to find a congregation or share your experiences
please contact us:

Email christianlife@wesleymission.org.au

Phone (02) 9263 5464

Visit wesleymission.org.au/christian-life

Join us for the next service in the 'Celebrating Faith' series:

6 pm Sunday 5 May, Wesley Theatre

The way that leads to purpose

6 pm Sunday 4 August, Wesley Theatre

Generating hope

6 pm Sunday 3 November, Wesley Theatre

A community of faith

Sign up to our 'Celebrating Faith' devotional plan series at
wesleymission.org.au/celebratingfaith

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