



# FAITH AND DOUBT

JAMES 1:5 - 8

# AGENDA

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Great or Little Faith?

Faith Can Grow

Jesus Response to Faith that  
Struggles

Understanding the Warning

Reaching Toward Jesus

## GREAT FAITH – FULL OF FAITH

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- Mat 15:28 “Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.” (all quotes ESV)
- Act 11:24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. (Barnabas)
- 1Ti 3:13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

## LITTLE FAITH – WHY DID YOU DOUBT?

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- Mat 8:26 And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.
- Mat 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
- Mat 16:8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, “O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?”

## JAMES 1:5 - 8

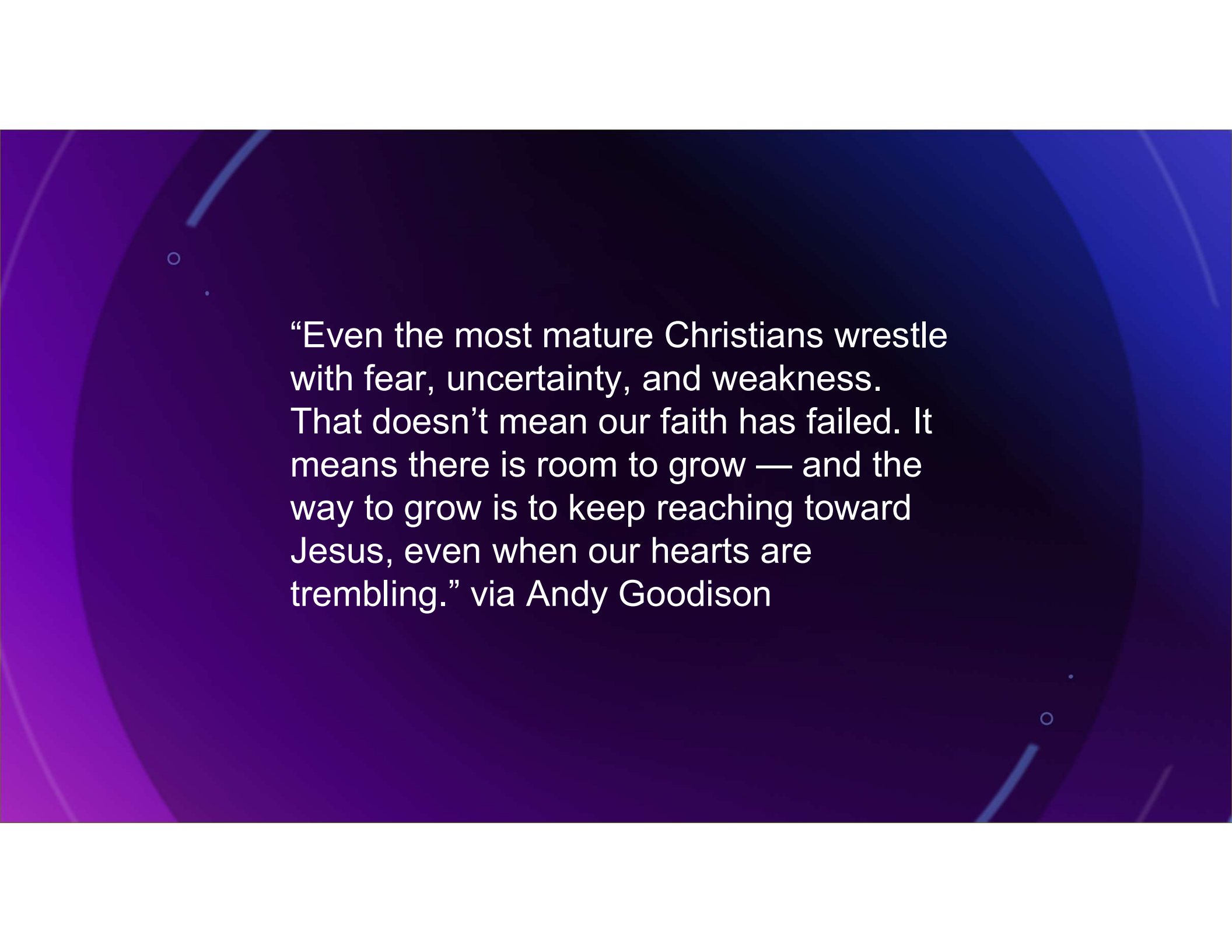
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- “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask *in faith, with no doubting*, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (ESV)

## FAITH THAT GROWS

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- Struggle and doubt are normal, but the answer is always the same — reach toward Jesus, don't turn away.
- Even James had doubts (John 7:5)
- “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Col. 2:6 – 7)



“Even the most mature Christians wrestle with fear, uncertainty, and weakness. That doesn’t mean our faith has failed. It means there is room to grow — and the way to grow is to keep reaching toward Jesus, even when our hearts are trembling.” via Andy Goodison

MATTHEW 14:22 - 33

FAITH THAT  
FALTERS



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## JESUS' RESPONSE TO FAITH THAT STRUGGLES

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- Peter – Faith that Falters (Matthew 14:22 – 33)
- The Desperate Father (Mark 9:24)
- John B – Faith Under Pressure (Matthew 11:2 – 6)
- Centurion – Faith that Amazed Jesus (Matt. 8:5 – 13)
- “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.” (8:8)

## UNDERSTAND THE WARNING

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- “But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.” — James 1:6 (NLT)
- Honest doubt that leads us to Jesus is never rejected. It’s the first step toward growing stronger faith.
- Rejecting Christ has eternal consequences (Heb. 10:26 – 31)

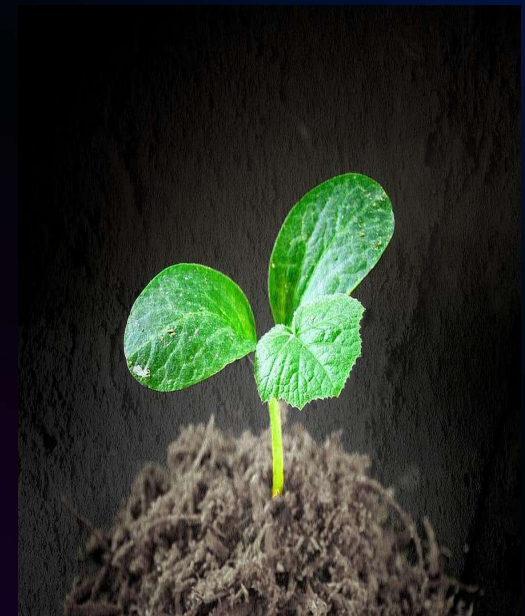
## FAITH AS A GROWING SEED

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“Faith is like a seed in the soil. Storms bend it, drought makes it tremble, yet when nurtured, it grows strong.”

What chokes out faith? (Luke 8:13)

“And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.”



# FAITH IS LIKE LEARNING TO RIDE A BIKE

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## JESUS' RESPONSE TO FAITH THAT STRUGGLES

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- Whether your faith is like **Peter sinking**, the father crying out, John in prison, or somewhere in between — He meets you there.
- And **remember the centurion** — strong faith is possible. Through Jesus, we can grow step by step toward that kind of trust.
- You don't need perfect faith to come to Him. You just need enough faith to say: "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."

## JESUS' RESPONSE TO FAITH THAT STRUGGLES

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- Jesus will meet you in your doubt, strengthen your faith, and one day bring it to perfection. (Hebrews 12:2) reminds us: **“Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith.”**
- What matters is enough faith to reach out to Jesus, to take the **first steps of obedience in repentance and baptism, having your sins washed away, choosing God over the world and everything in it.**