

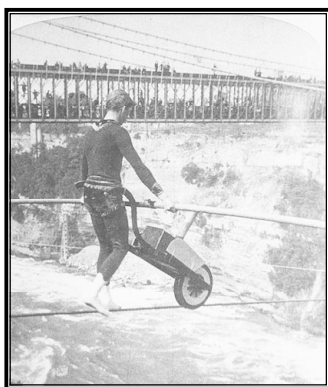
The Book of 1 John

Chapter 5

“That You May Know That You Have Eternal Life”

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In 1887, a famous tightrope walker, Clifford Calverly strung a cable from the American side to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.



As the crowds applauded Calverly, he walked back and forth across the falls, from one side to the other.

Once he crossed blindfolded, another time he rode a bicycles across, on another occasion, he set a speed record for crossing the gorge in 2 minutes and 30 seconds instead of the normal 15 to 20 minutes.

On another day, Calverly even pushed a wheelbarrow across the gorge. Everyday people came from far away to watch him, he was simply the greatest.

One day while pushing the wheelbarrow across the gorge, he called out to the crowd and asked whether they thought that he could push the wheelbarrow back and forth from one side to the other with a human being inside the wheelbarrow.

The crowd went berserk *“Surely you can. You are remarkable. We have watched you for days. We know that you can do anything...”*

Calverly then asked them:, *“Could I have a volunteer?, someone come right up her to the wheelbarrow and get inside...”*

Suddenly a deafening silence overtook the crowd. There was not one person who would climb into the wheelbarrow.

How do you know if you are really saved and going to heaven?

☞ *“Well, I believe that Jesus died for me.”*

☞ *“Well, because I love the Lord with all my heart.”*

Then a trial comes along and we are asked to get into the wheelbarrow and go across the gorge of suffering and trust the Lord through it...

“No way Lord, I am not going to get into that wheelbarrow.” But you have seen the Lord many times go back and forth in your life carrying the burdens of other people and watched Him do mighty things...

“...Yeah I know, but I am not getting into that wheelbarrow myself...”

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

What a peculiar people you are:

- ☞ You believe in a God you have never seen.
- ☞ You trust in a payment for all your sins by Jesus on a Cross, that makes no sense.
- ☞ You believe that Jesus is coming back for you?
- ☞ How do you know all these things for sure?
- ☞ How do you know that you really are saved?

John 1:12

But as many as received Jesus, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

“As many as received Jesus He gave them the power (EXOUSIAN power, the right, the authority) to become the sons and daughters of God, even to those that (Don’t do any more or any less) than just believe on His name”

From that first moment that you decided to Trust in Jesus, you also trusted in what He has done for you.

- ☞ **But how do you know** that this has really happened to you, that your sins are forgiven, and that you do have eternal life?
- ☞ **Some people can point** to a very emotional experience that they had where they shed great tears and felt something that they have never felt before.
- ☞ **Other, like myself**, when it happens to them, they are numb, they don’t feel anything, they may not shed a single tear.

Last week, we learned that one of the ways that we know we have been “**Born Again**” and have eternal life, is because we love each other.

- ☞ **In fact**, that love that we now have for each other as believers, **is the greatest proof** that something has happened to us.

One of the primary reasons that John wrote the Book of 1 John, is so that you can know for certain that you really are saved, and settle that issue once and for all.

- ☞ **Now, if you listen to some of the churches**, they will give you their definition of how you can know you are saved.
- ☞ **Many times** it will be by the keeping of certain rules they have established.
- ☞ **They may say** that unless you speak in tongues, you are not saved.
- ☞ **Unless you are baptized**, you are not saved.
- ☞ **Unless you tithe** 10% you are not saved.
- ☞ **Unless you go through their rites** of communion, confirmation, a missions trip, or go door to door, you are not really saved.

And all of these are “**The Traditions of Men**”, but they are not what God requires for salvation.

- ☞ **Jesus railed against the Pharisees**, because they held up their Traditions above what the Word of God said.

Mark 7:13

(You are) making the word of God of no effect through your traditions...

When the Traditions of men and of the churches is different from what Gods Word says, we are to ignore what men say and what a church says, and do what the Word of God says.

One of the largest churches in the world today, that has millions of people in their membership, teaches a doctrine that is based on what you do, instead of what Jesus has already done.

- ☞ You must keep the rules of their church.
- ☞ You must go door to door to witness.
- ☞ You must be in good standing with the church when you die.

If you ask one of the members of this church how they know right now whether they have eternal life or not, they will tell you that they really don't have any assurance that they are saved until they come before God

But even after you have done everything that they have told you to do, even when you die and stand before God, unless the founder of their church gives you His express permission, you will not enter heaven.

“no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith. From the day that the Priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding-up scene of all things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are”
(*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p.282-91)

John wrote the Book of 1 John, so that you could know for certain that you have eternal life, right now...

1 John 5:13

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God

This morning, the maker of Heaven and Earth wants for you to know for certain whether or not you have eternal life.

- ☞ **He wants for you to be certain**, and have confidence, so that you can have peace in your life over this issue, once and for all...

1 John 5

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

“By this, we know that we really do love God and are His, when we Keep His commandments...”

- ☞ **What are these** “Commandments” that John is talking about?
- ☞ **What do we need to do**, concerning these commandments so that we can know for sure we are saved?

One day, some of the people who had been listening to Jesus every day, came to Jesus and asked Him:

John 6:28-29

28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may do the works God requires?”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work God requires, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

First thing God requires to save you and give you eternal life:

- ☞ *“Believe in the One that He sent”.*

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life

Second thing God requires to save you and give you eternal life:

- ☞ *Believe with your heart that Jesus died for you, and confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord and Savior.*

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Third thing that God requires to save you and give you eternal life:

- ☞ *“Abide in Jesus for the rest of your life, stay close to Him and attached to Him, Live for Him”.*

John 15:4, 6

4 **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

6 If anyone **does not abide in Me**, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned

These are what God requires, anything else that man or a church has added to these 3, are additions to what God has said in His Word.

- ☞ **Now, after** you have done these three and are saved, you can do, and should do many other things.
- ☞ **But if you never did any of them**, you are saved by doing these 3.

One of the best verses to prove that only Jesus saves, not anything else, is when Jesus was speaking to the thief on the Cross.

Luke 23:42-43

42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.

This thief never had the opportunity to be baptized, speak in tongues, or do any witnessing or any other work, and yet Jesus told him that on that day when He died and went into paradise, this thief was coming with Him.

- ☞ **So, all of these other things** that we can do and should do after we believe in Jesus and are saved are available to every believer

Being Baptized in water, is an outward sign that something has happened in your heart, you no longer want to live for the things of the world, but for the rest of your life, you are going to live for Jesus.

Become involved in a local fellowship of other believers in Jesus so that you can:

- ☞ Learn the Word of God, all of it, verse by verse.
- ☞ Be encouraged by other believers.
- ☞ Be loved by other believers.
- ☞ Pray with other believers
- ☞ Fellowship with other believers.

All these will cause you to grow in your new relationship with God and be able to continue with Him for the rest of your life.

1 John 5

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Man, following Jesus is one of the most joyful, easiest things in the world.

- ☞ **If you just keep it simple**, Him loving you, you loving Him, and all of us loving each other.
- ☞ **But as soon** as you start putting **all kinds of other things** on top of this simple love for Jesus and fellowship with other believers, it get to be heavy, difficult and complicated.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **Take My yoke upon you** and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

The “**yoke**” that Jesus is talking about was a device that was placed upon an animal that was to pull something behind it, like an Oxen or a Cow.



What is interesting about this illustration that Jesus is using in comparing the burdens that He puts on us, is that each Yoke that was for a particular Oxen, was custom made for that Oxen

- ☞ **Each Yoke** that fit over the back of the Oxen, was custom made for that animal.
- ☞ **If that animal** had a Yoke placed on his back that was not made for him, it would rub a sore on his back, it would irritate him, and make the load he was supposed to carry, seem heavy and more difficult than it should be

Jesus is saying that He has custom made a Yoke for your to carry, that He made to perfectly fit you.

- ☞ **When you are carrying** the Yoke He made for you, it will not seem too heavy or burdensome.
- ☞ **But if you have fashioned** a Yoke for yourself that the Lord didn't make for you, that wasn't made for you, then your burdens will begin to seem heavy, irritate you and rub a sore on you.

Maybe you need to come to Jesus this morning and take off the Yoke you have placed on your life, and exchange it for a Yoke that Jesus would make for you, that will not be a heavy burden.

- ☞ **If you find** that whatever you are doing right now is wearing you out and extremely heavy, it is because you have taken upon yourself a Yoke Jesus did not intend that you have.
- ☞ **Jesus said** that the Yoke He wants for you to carry, is perfectly made for you and it is not heavy, it is light.
- ☞ **Because He is gentle** and compassionate towards you and wants your life to be a Joy and for you to have peace.

1 John 5

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Shortly after we made our offer on the Winslow Old Main high school building, we put out a call to “*Fast and Pray*”.

- ☞ **We wanted to really** just be seeking the Lord with all of our hearts, as to what His will might be, and to enter into the Spiritual Battle that we knew was going to take place as soon as we began to fast and pray.
- ☞ **July 7th 2003**, we began to pray for the city of Winslow, and the Reservation. That the Lord would allow us to reach them with the incredible news of what Jesus has done.

We met here 7 days a week at 11 am and 7 pm.

- ☞ **Many of you** that are here this morning, were an answer to those 4 months of prayer.
- ☞ **We have been** experiencing tremendous growth every since that time.
- ☞ **But that 4 months** was a tremendous time of **Spiritual Battle** for all of us who agreed to pray together.
- ☞ **We had some** who didn’t realize that all the irritations and difficulties that they were experiencing were **not from people**, they were from those principalities and powers that did not want for us to pray for the people of Winslow.

There were some that didn’t make it, they let those irritations by the enemy become huge in their minds, and they walked away from the fight, they are not here with us today.

- ☞ **There were some others** that also let the irritations by the enemy get them in an uproar, but they finally realized who the enemy really was, it was not any of us, it was an unseen power that wanted to stop us from reaching the people of Winslow.
- ☞ **They are still with us today** and have remained faithful to the call to prayer.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

Well after we made our offer for Old Main, we again put out the call for a Fast and to pray. Every single person that I know of, that has fasted and prayed, has again been under tremendous attack.

- ⊕ **What** does that mean?
- ⊕ **It means** we have struck a nerve.
- ⊕ **We have hit the enemy** in a place that He doesn't want to be hit.
- ⊕ **We are battling** in the Spirit where the enemy has no power to defeat us,
- ⊕ **Now if we allow** the irritations to draw us into a conflict with the members of our families and our friends, we are no match for the enemy in the real of the flesh.

But if we are wise today and know where to take the battle to, the enemy by prayer and fasting, then he is no match for us...

1 John 5

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God

- ⊕ **Pray and fast and stand** with us to see whether or not the Lord will give us Old Main to use it to repair the walls of human lives here in Winslow.
- ⊕ **Refuse to fuss and fight** with your spouse or kids or friends or boss, or any human being, because you have been taught that **they are not where the battle is**.
- ⊕ **Oh, that is where** the enemy wants you to focus on. But that is not the battle.
- ⊕ **Instead of fighting together**, pray together, instead of **reacting** to irritations, **Act** together to come against this unseen enemy by allowing the Lord to fight this battle for us.

Zechariah 4:6

“This is the word of the LORD...: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

The Lord does not fight for you in the battles of your life by conventional means:

- ⊕ **In many of those battle that Israel fought**, the Lord would often tell them to fight the enemy in a way that probably didn't make much sense:

Petra

*“Israel had a war to fight but the Lord showed them the secret
He said the battle this day is mine, but you must listen how to do it
Put your singers first in front of the rest
Let them praise and sing to me
And you will see the salvation of your God
And watch your enemies flee”*

The Lord told Joshua that he would be able to take the mighty fortress of Jericho in a way that probably seemed foolish and impossible to all those who would do it...

Joshua 6:1 -5

1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

2 And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

3 **You shall march around the city**, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city **once**. **This you shall do six days**.

4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But **the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times**, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that **all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat**. And the people shall go up every man straight before him

Hebrews 11:30

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days

Joshua had a might army, their business was not to go and fight the enemy. Joshua’s job was to just believe God, and when He did, the walls fell down.

- ☞ **We are not going to over come the world by fighting it**, we are going to overcome it by faith, by trusting the Lord to fight and win our battles/

Many of us this morning are fighting some battles in our life. May I say to you that you are not going to win that battle by any means of your own, you will probably just make it worse.

- ☞ **But if by the Spirit of God**, you ask Him to fight that battle for you, He will do it and give you the victory.
- ☞ **You just dance before Him**, praise and sing to him, and watch your enemies flee

1 John 5

6 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

You know, when Jesus was being crucified, all of the disciples that had been with Him for 3 ½ years, had run away in fear, all except one, John.

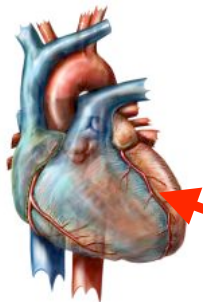
- ☞ **The tradition** is that when Jesus was crucified, His Cross was not high up in the sky, but just above ground.
- ☞ **So John standing** there right in front of Jesus, standing next to his mother Mary, saw when the soldier rammed the spear into Jesus side.

John 19:33-34

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

34 But one of the soldiers **pierced His side** with a spear, and immediately **blood and water** came out.

Medical science today says that this condition happens when the “Pericardium”, the sack that surrounds the heart, fills with liquid.



- ☞ **When someone is under tremendous stress**, often this occurs, just before the stress causes the heart to rupture.
- ☞ **Literally**, it means that Jesus heart “**Burst within Him**”, He died of a broken heart.
- ☞ **So out from Jesus side**, John saw the Water and the Blood come from Jesus.

Now in the Bible, Water always speaks of the Word of God...

Ephesians 5:26

...washing of water by the word,

When Nicodemus came to Jesus and asked him about what it took to enter the kingdom of heaven, Jesus told him:

John 3:5

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God

Now, there are a couple of possible interpretations if this verse.

- ☞ Unless someone is Born of the Water of the Word of God and The Holy Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.
- ☞ Faith come by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

A person comes to Calvary Chapel, hears the Word of God concerning Jesus and that they must receive Him to be saved and go to heaven, and so they do, then by the Power of the Holy Spirit, they are “**Born Again**”.

The Second possibility is that When a person is born physically, water comes from out from the birth process.

- ☞ **So you are born in Water** at your first birth, but you are born by The Holy Spirit in your Second birth.

1 John 5

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

Verse 7 is one of those verses that proves the existence of the Trinity, as we see all three here in one mention:

- ☞ The Father
- ☞ The Word
- ☞ The Holy spirit.

Now Some scholars say that this verse did not appear in the earliest manuscripts of the bible, but was written in the margins by a early translator.

- ☞ **You can get opinions** on both sides of the argument.
- ☞ **Even** if it was only written in the margin, why did the translator write it in the margin?
- ☞ **It was his understanding** that this verse and this context was about the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Jesus said that No one can be saved unless the Holy Spirit draws that person to Him.

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him

Matthew 16:17

Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

John 16:13

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth

This is why we put such a great emphasis on teaching you the Word of God.

- ☞ **It is the Holy Spirit** working through the Word of God, Declaring to you who Jesus really is, that changes people lives and gives them Eternal life.
- ☞ **There is allot of emphasis today** in churches about their programs and their great theatrics, but it is only the Holy Spirit bearing witness to your heart this morning about who Jesus is, that is going to give you what you are really looking for.

1 John 5

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So, If you want to go to heaven, if you want to know what God requires for admission into heaven, listen up.

- ☞ **Eternal life**, is only found in the person of Jesus Christ.
- ☞ **It is not found** in a church.
- ☞ **It is not found in doing** a list of laws or rules.
- ☞ **It is not found in trying** to be a good person.
- ☞ **The only acceptable thing** that you can do that God will accept is “Believe that Jesus died for you on the Cross and that He paid for all of your sins, and that by believing this you have eternal life.
- ☞ **Then live** the rest of your life for Jesus.

All of these things in the Bible, all the things that we try to teach you every Sunday and Wednesday and everything in between, is this verse:

“...that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

And if you have believed that Jesus is your only hope of eternal life, and you are living for Him, then this next verse applies to you...

1 John 5

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Anything that you ask of the Lord that is in accordance with His will, He says that He will do it.

- ☞ **The secret** to getting prayer answered is to pray every thing an alignment with what God’s will is.
- ☞ **How can you know what Gods will is?** It is everything that He as already said in the Bible, nothing more, nothing less.

John 14:13

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

What does Jesus name stand for?

- ☞ **Is what you are asking for in prayer**, something that Jesus and His name would do?
- ☞ **Then if it is**, you can have confidence that He will do it.

16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

Now, “**A sin leading to death**” as described here, is speaking of “**Physical Death**”.

- ☞ **When Moses was told by the Lord** to “Speak to the Rock” the second time and he didn’t listen to God but went instead and beat the rock, he misrepresented the Lord before the people, and for this he died in the wilderness and was not allowed to enter the promised land.
- ☞ **When Ananias and Sapphira** lied regarding how much they gave and how much they kept back and they died where they stood.
- ☞ **In the Book of 1 Corinthians**, some Christians were getting drunk during communion and Paul said that some of them became sick and actually died.

This is not a sin that leads to eternal death, and separation from God.

- ☞ **But their carelessness** and thoughtlessness, caused their death.
- ☞ **They did however still go to heaven**, because they were saved based on what Jesus did, not based on what they did or did not do themselves, this is the amazing Grace of God in action.

Moses misrepresented the Lord because he lost his temper, Ananias and Sapphira lied, believers were getting drunk in Corinth, so they lost their physical life.

Now think of it this way, if you have a child in your life, either your own or a niece or nephew.

From time to time, all children do things that they get themselves into trouble. If that child is outside playing and he continually gets into things that he shouldn’t be into, eventually you will have to go out and force them to come into your house.

“I don’t want to come into the house...”

Now this child might be in allot of trouble, and they are not in a position where they are your favorite person at that moment, but they are still your child, they are still yours...

Even so, there are some people who get themselves into places they should not be, and the Lord in His mercy will take them Home. That is not a tragedy, that is Mercy and Grace...

1 John 5

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

This verse parallels the 1 chapter of The Book of 1 John:

- ☞ **If you really belong to Jesus**, then you will not be able to stay in sin very long.
- ☞ **It will hurt your heart and your Spirit** and you will be very uncomfortable.
- ☞ **You will not remain** in a lifestyle of sin, but only occasionally fall into sin.

If you find that you like to live in a live style of sin, and you have claimed to be a follower of Jesus, these verses here in 1 John say that you are “A Liar”.

1 John 5

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

This is an amazing verse, because it says that everyone that doesn't belong to Jesus, belongs to satan, and is under his power.

Matthew 12:30

He who is not with Me is against Me,

1 John 5

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

The awesome news this morning is that you can know for certain that you are saved and that you really do belong to the Lord and are going to be with Him forever...How?

If you have the Son, you have eternal life, If you do not have the Son, you do not have eternal life...

And God gives you eternal life, only through a simple faith in what He said that He would do...

- ☞ Faith is not the way around pain...
- ☞ Faith doesn't get rid of the opposition, it invites it over for dinner...
- ☞ Faith doesn't give you the winning point at the last second, it ties the game and sends you into overtime...
- ☞ Faith doesn't give you the solution, it forces you to find it...
- ☞ Faith doesn't teach you at the moment, it teaches you in retrospect...
- ☞ Faith doesn't provide a net to fall into when your fingers are about to give way as you hang suspended over the cliff, faith gives your fingers the strength to hang on just a little longer...

In other words, Faith doesn't do anything it helps you do something