

7. **Perfecting Faith By Practicing Faith** With reference to the (Gen 22) account of Abraham offering Isaac the NT writer asks: (Jas 2:21-22) “*Was not Abraham our father justified by _____, when he had _____ Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by _____ was _____ made _____?*” Truly practice makes something habitual, if not perfect. Believing in anything and pursuing it to a successful conclusion is a confidence builder. The Almighty testified (Gen 22:12) that Abraham has proven himself by saying, “*for now _____ that thou _____ God.*”
8. **It Is A Terrible Thing To Lose Faith** To think that you believe in something with great faith and then realize you no longer have that conviction is traumatic and soul-shaking. How does such a thing happen? Priorities sometimes change. We may mistakenly think we love God more than we love worldly acclaim and possessions. (Heb 3:12) “*Take _____, brethren, lest there be in any of you an _____ heart of _____, in _____ from the living God.*”
9. **As Goes The Proposition So Must Be The Demonstration** Most of us can think of acquaintances who were quite outspoken about the depth of their faith in God and then disappointed us greatly by abandoning it. Peter (Mk 14:31) “*spake the _____ vehemently*” to Jesus and vowed, “*If I should _____ with thee, _____ in any wise.*” **Object Lesson:** (Gal 6:3) “*For if a man _____ himself to be _____, when he is _____, he deceiveth himself.*” We can over-estimate our abilities and faith. Peter did and denied Jesus, not once, but three times. Don’t say, “I love God!” unless you have made an informed commitment to (1 Jn 5:3) “*_____ his commandments.*”
10. **Keeping Faith Requires Frequent Evaluation** The Bereans (Acts 17:11) “*received the word with all _____ of _____, and searched the scriptures _____, whether those things were so.*” Paul demanded: (2 Cor 13:5) “*_____ yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; _____ your _____ selves.*” (a) A good habit is to pick particular times during the day to pray. Do this and you won’t forget. Pick private times when you won’t be interrupted. (b) Use these moments to introspect. Ask yourself, am I mindful of spiritual things today? Am I humble, even when involved in hectic activity and with mundane problems? Am I appreciative of my God?
11. **Refusing To Give Ground** Christians are portrayed as soldiers of King Jesus (Eph 6:10-17) such traits and objectivity is delineated in pictures of battlefield armament. Jude admonished: (V3) “*Earnestly _____ for the _____.*” Know what you believe and know why you believe it! Be prepared to defend it and (Eph 4:27) “*Neither _____ to the devil.*” Hold your ground! Paul instructed Timothy to (2 Tim 2:3-4) “*endure _____, as a good _____ of Jesus Christ*” and to “*_____ him who hath _____ to be a soldier.*” Do this and your faith will prosper. Why? You now have a track record. You know that you can persevere.
12. **Keeping Faith Requires Holding On** Turn loose and you are doomed. (Job 27:6) “*My righteousness I _____, and will _____ let it go: my heart _____ reproach me so long as I live.*” That’s exactly what Paul meant when he said (1 Thess 5:21), “*Prove _____ things; _____ that which is _____.*” Sometimes it takes grit and a big dose of intestinal fortitude to “hold on” when it would be so easy to “let go” and slip back into the mediocrity of worldliness.
13. **Personal Conviction & Pride Help Us Keep Faith** Joshua is a wonderful OT example. He had the pride and conviction to say to Israel (24:15), “*_____ you this day whom ye will serve---but as _____ and _____, we will serve the LORD.*” We know that we must each (Phil 2:12) “*_____ out*” our “*own salvation with _____ and _____*” and be responsible to others who look to us for an example. Knowing that others depend on you should make you all the more determined to “keep the faith.” Keeping one’s faith intact is a very personal matter.
14. **Conclusion** Remember, (Rom 8:37) that “*in _____ we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*” Shun (Gal 4:9) the “*weak and _____ elements.*”