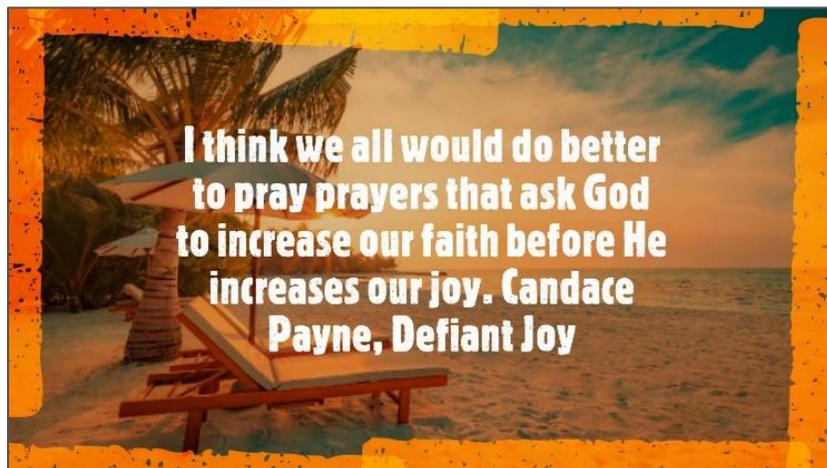


Elements of Faith

There are elements of faith that must be combined. These elements include the following but are not limited to these: The **first** is the object of our faith who is the Father from whom every good and perfect gift comes and who loves to give good gifts to His children. The **second** is the faith that is in our hearts and the strength or size of this faith. This personal faith is a reliance on the object of faith. The **third** is the will of God. Faith is guided by His will. What we intend in faith must be according to His will. God will not act outside of His will. The **fourth** is the asking or the expectation. The exercise of faith is found in words. God created by speaking. We receive by asking. We proclaim our faith. Sometimes we speak by our actions. So either by word or deed we demonstrate the faith that is in our hearts. Otherwise our faith is dead and ineffective. **Fifth** is a mysterious element that is hard for me to explain or define, but I think it must be a part of this equation. I will call it “my believing.” I must put my faith into the process. I must actually rely, submit, humble myself, let go of my own way and will, and rest in Him. I need a peace and assurance that God is able and will act on a matter which I put before Him in His time and manner. These elements are, to my mind, essential parts of faith. I separate them only so I can examine them and see where I am on each aspect of faith. If my faith is weak, it may be because one of these elements within me is weak. I might find them all to be weak and not well defined within me. It is my belief that God may bypass me in supplying my needs because He wants me to be a participant in the divine nature. He wants me included in the process, though He does not need me to be. Perhaps we will unpack each element in the days to come. But for now, I trust God that I have covered what He wants me to cover today.



Reflection and Discussion



Look at each element of faith. Which is your strength, and which is your weakness?

What is your method for determining the will of God?

Do you understand this mysterious element?

Why does God include me in the process of faith instead of just doing what needs to be done, leaving me out?

Memory Verse: Mark 9:24

“Immediately the boy’s father cried out and began saying, ‘I do believe; help my unbelief.’”