



Helping Kids Grow in Faith God's Way

When Real Faith Looks Like Love

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Faith | Faith

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"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20, *ESV*)

Key Takeaway

Faith is trusting God's grace and letting it grow into love.

The Biblical Meaning of Faith

Faith in Scripture isn't just believing something about God; it's trusting Him enough to give Him your heart. It's the open door that lets His grace come in and change us from the inside out.

The Bible says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8–9, *ESV*). Grace is where it all begins. It's God reaching out first. Faith is our "yes" back to Him—our choice to rest in His goodness and let Him lead.

But living faith doesn't stay still. "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." (*Galatians 5:6, NIV*). Real faith moves, forgives, helps, and shows in kindness even when it's hard. That's how faith comes alive. When Paul says, "...if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2, *ESV*), he reminds us that love is the heartbeat of true belief.

Faith begins in grace and blossoms in love. Love is the full circle of God's work in us.

Understanding Faith, Grace, and Love: How Faith Grows into Love

Faith starts when we trust that God loves us before we ever earn it. Grace is His steady help that makes faith grow strong. And love is faith made visible.



When a child dares to believe that God's love doesn't disappear when they fail, that's faith beginning to grow. When they ask for help to be patient or kind, grace is already at work. And when they choose to share, forgive, or comfort a friend, faith has grown into love.

Think of faith like a seed planted deep in the soil of the heart. Grace is the sunlight and rain that help it grow. In time, that seed will bear fruit and turns into acts of love that look like Jesus. Faith doesn't hide from real life; it steps into it, shaped by grace, and finds joy in loving God and others well.

Practical Steps: Growing in Faith and Love with God's Help

1. **Morning "Yes" Prayer** – Hand on heart: "Jesus, I say yes to You. Live in me today." Begin the day by trusting His grace.
2. **Faith-to-Love Pause (Breathe • Ask • Choose)** – When you're upset, pause and breathe; ask, "Jesus, help me love," then choose one kind action or word.
3. **One Small Act of Love** – Pick one person each day to serve: include someone left out, share a snack, or help at home with chores.
4. **Carry a Verse** – Memorize Galatians 5:6. Write it on a sticky note or bracelet so kids see it often and remember what real faith looks like.
5. **Confess & Reset** – At bedtime, ask: "Where did my faith show love today? Where didn't it?" Say sorry, receive grace, and start fresh tomorrow.

Scripture for Parents and Kids

- "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." (Galatians 5:6, *NIV*)
- "...if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:2, *ESV*)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8–9, *ESV*)

Encouragement for Parents

Faith isn't something kids master in a moment. It's a lifelong journey. They may not fully understand grace or love right away, but your steady example points them toward Jesus. Remember, God gives you grace for the journey too. You're not alone.

When you stumble, God's grace is still at work in you. Every prayer whispered, every act of forgiveness, every moment of kindness plants seeds of faith in your child's heart. Over time, those seeds grow into love that reflects Christ. Trust that God is working in your family even in the small, ordinary moments.

CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Talk about the Good Samaritan and how he showed love in action.
- **Teach:** Faith means more than believing; it grows into love through God's grace.
- **Model:** Show forgiveness, kindness, and truth in your own life.
- **Pray:** "Jesus, help my faith grow into love."