

In Chapter 1, we learn about the first myth: “*Faith Can Fix Anything!*” Larry Osborne describes the differences between ‘*biblical faith*’ and ‘*faith in ourselves*.’ According to Osborne, our ‘*biblical faith map*’ takes us where the words of the Triune God of Grace would have us go. And, our ‘*faith in ourselves map*’ takes us directly into the tangle web of the myth. We also learn that faith is not something we have dreamed up from our own philosophies and ways of knowing. The one true faith is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Faith is a gift. We are called into faith. Like a phone call, faith does not originate with us, but it is the voice on the other end of the line calling out. The faith journey is an amazing adventure which, on this side of Heaven, will also include distress, failures, doubts, conflict, frustration, risks, hazards, bumps, and unknowns. The Good Shepherd has not left us to our own devices—temporary trappings that have no future. He redeems us, and we live by faith wrapped in His righteousness.

1. How do people understand the word *faith* today?

2. Where do these understandings of *faith* lead them?

3. Have you ever been in a situation like John’s where you felt you had absolute faith that God was going to step in and fix a situation—according to YOUR plans, only to have Him do something different?
 - a. If so, how did that impact your walk with God—your ideas about faith?

 - b. If not, have you seen this in someone else and how did it impact their walk with God?

4. Read and Discuss. Genesis 18:1-15, Genesis 22:1-18, Acts 12:1-19, and Hebrews 11:1-40
 - a. Any elements of *surprise* or *doubt* in these stories?

 - b. Any evidence that shows *faithful obedience* despite doubt?

5. Are there ways to guard against relying on our own faith (separate from God) to guard against relying on our intellectual power and our own emotional self-control?