

#1

*Isaiah 50:4-5 (NIV)*  
The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.

***Faith, Part - 6 – A Faith that Sustains***

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***In the first three verses of Isaiah 50, the Lord God Almighty told his people that He had enough.***

He was going to reject them.

Their rebellion and sinful ways had taken them into exile.

***They did not have a faith in God that could sustain them.***

Instead of trusting God, rebellion ruled their hearts.

Instead of walking in obedience to faith, they rebelled against God’s commands and sinned.

Instead of believing God’s Word, they transgressed.

***They had forgotten all of the mighty and wonderful things that God had done for them.***

He had delivered them from slavery.

He had ransomed and rescued them.

He had shown them His strength.

He had been a very present help in times of their trouble.

***God reminded them of His faithfulness.***

***Isaiah 50:2-3 (NIV)*** When I came, why was there no one? When I called, why was there no one to answer? Was my arm too short to ransom you? Do I lack the strength to rescue you?

By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert; their fish rot for lack of water and die of thirst. I clothe the sky with darkness and make sackcloth its covering.”

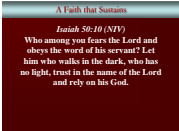
#2

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#4



***God reminded them of His strength and sovereign power.***

***Here is the key for a faith that sustains.***

***Isaiah 50:10 (NIV)*** Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

***A faith that sustains must be developed on fear of the Lord and obedience.***

***What is this fear of the Lord?***

God is awesome in holiness and power.

We should stand in awe of the Lord our God.

***This is not fear or dread, it is an attitude of reverence and awe.***

***What He has said, He will perform.***

***Obedience is the sign of properly evaluating the Lord our God.***

#5



***“Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.”***

***A faith that sustains must look past the dark days and difficult times.***

***It is hard to stand when we do not understand.***

There are times in our lives, as God’s people, that we have to serve God in the midst of darkness.

There are times that we find it difficult to see very far ahead.

We desire to be “overcomers” but do not want to overcome.

#6

A Faith that Sustains  
*Are you experiencing a dark time in your life?*  
 Why does such darkness come to a Christian?

*Are you experiencing a dark time in your life?*

*Do you have a wayward child?*

*Have you experienced a financial reversal?*

*Has someone broken your heart or taken advantage of you?*

*Are you not able to make sense of what is happening in your life?*

There are seasons when we are not able to grasp what is happening in our lives.

We have studied our lessons.

We have learned the formulas.

We memorized the promises in God's Word.

We think we have it all figured out.

*Then suddenly we are plunged into deep, deep darkness.*

*Why does such darkness come to a Christian?*

*Why did your child have to die?*

*Why did your husband or wife break your heart?*

*Why did your business have to go bankrupt?*

*Why did sickness come to you or your loved ones?*

*Why did God heal that person and not heal you?*

*According to Isaiah 50, there are two reasons for seasons of darkness.*

#7

A Faith that Sustains  
*According to Isaiah 50, there are two reasons for seasons of darkness.*  
 First, seasons of darkness come when we refuse to reverence and obey God.  
 Second, seasons of darkness come to those who trust God, and faithfully obey.

*First, seasons of darkness come when we refuse to reverence and obey God.*

Without confident trust in God, you are headed into dark days.

*Second, seasons of darkness come to those who trust God, and faithfully obey.*

*There is a major difference in the outcome.*

#8

A Faith that Sustains  
*That person who does not trust and obey is headed into darkness without hope.*  
 There is no place as dark as the darkness of unbelief.

*That person who does not trust and obey is headed into darkness without hope.*

*There is no place as dark as the darkness of unbelief.*

Where can you go if you do not have faith in God?  
Who can help you when there is no one to answer?  
Who can calm the sea or part the water if God is not your lifeguard?

***Why do bad things happen to people of faith?  
Why are there waters to cross, and battles to fight?  
Why does the enemy rage?***

#10

A Faith that Sustains  
1 Peter 5:8  
Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.  
John 10:10  
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

***1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)*** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

***John 10:10 (NKJV)*** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

***Darkness comes because the enemy of your soul is on the prey.***

***Isaiah 50:10 is referring to someone who fears and loves the Lord.***

***They are faithful to God.***

***This person is obeying the voice of God.***

#11

A Faith that Sustains  
Isaiah 50:4-5 (NKJV)  
"The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear, To hear as the learned, The Lord God has opened My ear, And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away."

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***Darkness comes.***

***One source says there were more than 150,000 Christians martyred for their faith last year.***

***The Prophet Habakkuk said: (1:2 NIV)*** How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?

***Darkness comes.***

#12

A Faith that Sustains  
Habakkuk 1:2 (NIV)  
How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?  
Habakkuk 1:8-9 (NKJV)  
He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; And He has set darkness in my paths. He has stripped me of my glory, And taken the crown from my head.

#13



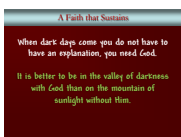
***The Patriarch Job 19:8-9 (NKJV)*** He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; And He has set darkness in my paths. He has stripped me of my glory, And taken the crown *from* my head.

***Darkness comes!***

***John the Baptist*** sent messengers from the prison and asked Jesus: “Are you really the Messiah or should we look for someone else?”

***Every one of these men came to a dark time when they did not understand why or what was happening to them.***

#14



***When dark days come you do not have to have an explanation, you need God.***

***It is better to be in the valley of darkness with God than on the mountain of sunlight without Him.***

***Faith and trust in God is usually developed in the darkness.***

***Satan has a strategy to steal, kill, and destroy.  
Jesus has come to give life more abundantly.***

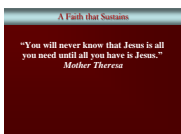
***Your faith must be established on the fact that God never changes.***

***His Word never changes.***

***He remains constant through all seasons of our life.***

***The test of our faith is not what we do in worship services.***

#15



***Shortly before her death, Mother Theresa said, “You will never know that Jesus is all you need until all you have is Jesus.”***

***Do you have a faith that will sustain you?***

#16

A Faith that Sustains  
Psalm 51:12 (NKJV)  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and  
uphold me by Your generous Spirit.  
Psalm 3:5 (NKJV)  
I lay down and slept; I awoke,  
for the Lord sustained me.  
Psalm 41:3 (NKJV)  
The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of  
illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

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#17

A Faith that Sustains  
Psalm 18:35 (NKJV)  
You have also given me the shield of Your  
salvation; Your right hand has held me up,  
Your gentleness has made me great.  
Psalm 55:22 (NKJV)  
Cast your burden on the Lord, And He  
shall sustain you; He shall never permit the  
righteous to be moved.

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***We are living in the last days.  
The Bible calls these perilous times.  
The evidence is not just something we have read about.  
Look all around you.  
Do you notice that our world is full of trouble?  
Do you notice that men’s hearts are failing them for  
fear of what is coming?  
Do you see the increase of violence and pestilence?  
Do you notice the instability that is all around?***

#18

A Faith that Sustains  
Jesus Christ is an anchor for your soul.  
You need a faith in God that will sustain you.  
Your faith in God is not in vain.

***Jesus Christ is an anchor for your soul.  
You need a faith in God that will sustain you.***

***Your faith in God is not in vain.  
If your sun has set and darkness has crept upon you,  
there is a better day coming.***

#19

A Faith that Sustains

"Weeping may endure for a night, but  
joy will come in the morning."  
(Psalms 30:5).

*"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy will come in the morning" (Psalms 30:5).*

God still knows how to open the door of the morning and flood your world with His light.

You will see things and know things that you have never seen or known before.

There is a better day coming.

We are going to be stepping out of time into eternity.

We will see the fullness of the glory of God.