

Doctrine of Fainting

1. Fainting is a negative but common experience of the Christian's journey into grace.
2. Fainting is a symbol of spiritual weakness. *Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.*
3. Most Christians do faith in the day of adversity. Like Job or Jeremiah we comfort others better than we live out the reality of our own rhetoric.
 - *Job 4:5 But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.*
 - *Jeremiah 8:18 When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me.*
4. God does not want Christians to be faint hearted. When Israel was preparing for war the Lord directed conduct through the priests.
 - *Deuteronomy 20:3 Let not your hearts fail.*

The Lord knew that a good soldier cannot fight with a faint heart. For this reason the officers of Israel dismissed from the ranks all that were fearful and faint hearted.

 - *Deuteronomy 20:8 What man is there that is fearful and faint-hearted? Let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart.*
5. The ideal soldier in a nation's uniform and the ideal spiritual soldier has the courage of Gideon and his three hundred men.
 - *Judges 8:4: They "came to Jordan and passed over, faint, yet pursuing on.*
6. The Lord Jesus would have Christians pray and faint not.
 - *Luke 18:1 "Pray and faint not."*
7. Because the church has a gospel to proclaim, it must not faint.
 - *2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;*
8. Believers must also not faint at the hardship of the Christian faith.
 - *Ephesians 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*

Rather, let the believer,

- *Hebrews 12:3 "consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds".*

9. The Christian is not to despise the Lord's chastening or faint at his rebuke.

- *Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

10. There are spiritual rewards for those who do not faint.

- *Galatians 6:9 Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap [a reward] if we faint not.*

11. The Lord Jesus does have compassion on us when we faint

- *Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

12. What is to be done when we do faint like Jonah or the Israelites? The answer is, remember, for in remembering hope is revived in the Word of the Lord.

- *Jonah 2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord.*
- *Psalms 107:5-6 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then, they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses*
- *Psalms 119:81 My soul fainteth for Thy salvation but I hope in Thy word.*

13. God does not faint. The One who upholds all of creation never despairs nor grows weary.

- *Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?*

14. Because God does not faint He is able to give power and strength to those who do.

- *Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint.*

15. Unfortunately, even the youth in the faith tend to faint. But the Lord is faithful and will deliver them from the depths of despair.

- *Isaiah 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

- *Isaiah 40:31 They that wait upon the Lordshall walk and not faint.*

16. Having strong faith or fainting in times of pressure are the two options. May the Lord grant His people greater patience in His goodness and grace.

- *Psalm 27:13 I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the Living. Wait on the Lord: be of good course and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.*