

FAITH STORIES™

1. WHEN AND BY WHOM WERE FAITH STORIES ORIGINATED?

FAITH STORIES began at the beginning of time by God. He is the one who created the universe which reflects his great and awesome creative power and beauty. His creation also includes the beginning of human beings. One could say that his creation not only showed his power and beauty and order, but also his plan and desire to have companionship and communications with people to show them what kind of a God he is.

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FAITH STORIES?

FAITH STORIES are used by God to let people know that he is a God who is faithful – faithful to his being, faithful to his word, faithful to his promises, faithful to the people he created. God's FAITH STORIES reveal that he is a faithful God.

3. WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF GOD'S FAITH STORIES RECORDED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS?

God's first FAITH STORIES were of an oral nature as he spoke directly to people through visions, dreams, the Spirit, miracles, and human beings. As time went on the oral FAITH STORIES were put into writing the books of the Old Testament. We read the FAITH STORIES in connection with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Joseph, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, David, and others. The Old Testament can be identified as the FAITH STORIES of God. Psalm 23 is David's way of writing a FAITH STORY of who is his God.

4. ARE GOD'S FAITH STORIES ONLY FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS?

No. God's FAITH STORIES continue on as God revealed to human beings what kind of a God he is. God's greatest FAITH STORY is recorded in what we call the New Testament writings of God's keeping his promises in sending his Son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for the sins of all people. God's FAITH STORY is one of his grace and love in the person and work of Jesus. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are God's FAITH STORIES.

5. ARE GOD'S FAITH STORIES ONLY FOUND IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS?

No. God's FAITH STORIES continue on to this very day. When any person comes to believe in Jesus as God's Son who died on the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all human beings and who believe that Jesus rose from the dead to give eternal life then this means that the FAITH STORIES of God are spoken with their mouths and lived out in their actions. Believers in Jesus become the FAITH STORIES of God that are reflecting who God is – a God upon whom you can trust and count on.

6. WHAT ARE THE AGES OF PEOPLE WHOM GOD USES TO CONTINUE HIS FAITH STORIES?

God uses his disciples of all ages to be his FAITH STORIES. God's plan is to have all believers in Jesus to become and reflect his FAITH STORIES so that all people may come to know him as a God of faithfulness, love, peace, forgiveness, and hope. It is God's plan to call people to trust in his promises, and then to share his FAITH STORY to the next generation. Believers in Jesus are called not to tell their own story, but to tell and share God's FAITH STORIES. The Bible records how God has blessed people of all ages, young and old, male and female of how God has worked in their lives. Here are a few examples: Simeon and Anna in Luke 2, a young girl and a sick woman in Mark 5, and references to Priscilla and Aquila, Erastus, Trophimus, Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia in II Timothy 4.

7. IS THERE ONLY ONE WAY THAT GOD'S FAITH STORIES ARE TO BE TOLD?

No. God does not provide a set way to communicate his FAITH STORIES. Consider the following list that shows how God's FAITH STORIES can work in your life:

- a. Words coming out of your mouth as a FAITH STORY in daily conversations with others.
- b. Writing God's FAITH STORIES in sharing how God has been and is at work in your life.
- c. Putting a FAITH STORY on an audio tape.
- d. Putting a FAITH STORY on a video tape.
- e. Including a FAITH STORY in your will.
- f. Sharing a FAITH STORY in a family gathering, reunion, special celebrations.
- g. Sharing a FAITH STORY in a worship service or Bible class.
- h. Putting a FAITH STORY in the form of a poem.
- i. Putting a FAITH STORY in the form of a musical song.
- j. Being open to the Spirit as God leads and guides you to share his FAITH STORY.

8. WHAT OTHER WORDS CAN BE USED OTHER THAN FAITH STORIES?

FAITH STORIES can be described in different terms but with the same understanding as being used in this information. Here are other terms that have been used:

- a. Journal
- b. Testimony
- c. Life Story
- d. God at work in my life
- e. My journey with God
- f. What Jesus means to me
- g. My word and testament
- h. Story time
- i. Milestones in my life

9. IS THERE A SET FORM OR OUTLINE TO FOLLOW IN MAKING AND DELIVERING A FAITH STORY?

No. But consider these ideas and thoughts that would determine different forms and different lengths of how God is working in your daily living in giving you peace, joy, hope, and endurance:

- a. Begin at birth and continue to your present age
- b. Different places where you have lived
- c. How God brought you to faith in Jesus

- d. A time of hardship or difficulty when God guided and got you through
- e. Your career schooling experiences
- f. God's gifts of close friends
- g. How someone encouraged you during tough times
- h. Special people whom God provided for you in your lifetime
- i. Events in which God blessed you in special ways
- j. Joyful events throughout your years
- k. Times and experiences in which you grew spiritually
- l. What is your purpose for living
- m. What passions and interests that God has given you
- n. Things you have learned through various jobs that you have had
- o. Special milestones that you have experienced

10. WHO RECEIVES ALL THE HONOR AND GLORY OF FAITH STORIES?

FAITH STORIES should be made and delivered in such a manner that God receives all the honor, thanks, and glory. We do not share FAITH STORIES to receive a trophy or some reward for personal gain. FAITH STORIES are designed to reflect who God is and how he is working in your life. It would be good to just prepare a FAITH STORY and then be open to letting God make use of your FAITH STORY at his direction.

11. HOW CAN MODERN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCE THE VALUE AND LONGEVITY OF FAITH STORES?

God has been working in the area of giving people the gifts of technology that are enhancing the value and use of FAITH STORIES. In our age of continuing research and technology in the use of printing, video, taping, recording, cell phones, and computers, FAITH STORIES will be able to be communicated in a wide variety of ways and even in a low-cost manner.

12. HOW CAN YOU USE FAITH STORIES TO REFLECT WHO GOD IS AND HOW HE IS WORKING AND LIVING IN YOUR LIFE?

You are the only one who can answer this question.