

Exercising Your Faith!

Introduction

- How do you feel about exercising?
- Can you exercise without acting?

Faith Definition (Hebrews 10:35-39 & 11:1-3)

- Don't give up - - - Endurance is required! When trial come, continue to focus on the will of God for your life.
- By doing the will of God, you will recognize his promises to you.
- Don't doubt and turn away, continue to believe in God!
- The just will live by faith! FAITH IS A LIFESTYLE! (Faith is not a feeling, it's just not what you say, it's how you live and conduct yourself)
- You must take action to demonstrate your faith! No action, no faith! The devil doesn't care that you believe, as long as you don't take action.
- Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- What substance is your faith in? Bad substance = bad faith
- Faith isn't what you see, it's what you don't have an answer to, that you are trusting God for!
- Faith is aligned with the creation. God created the Earth out of nothing..... and from the substance of our hope in Him, we will see the salvation of our situation.

Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11:4-40)

- Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses' parents, Moses, the children of Israel, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets - - - How about you?
- Hebrews 11:6 – it is mandatory to have faith to please God
 - Faith is mandatory if you want an experience with God
 - Without faith we are challenging the sovereignty of God
 - Faith is acting/operating like God already gave us the answer, even though it hasn't been revealed or worked out yet.
- Old Testament characters show their faith and the faithfulness of God in the OT and how it was available in the New Testament and available to us today.
- Consider the cast of characters listed –Prostitute, Liar, Adulterer, etc.
 - If we were making the list, would they have made the list?
 - Despite your situation, you can make the list – Have Faith in God!

- The OT characters trusted the integrity of God... they acted as if they knew God would do what he said - - We must do the same today!

Example of Exercising Faith (Luke 7:2-10)

- Luke’s message changes from a Jewish focus to an inclusion of the gentiles on the Christian journey.
- The Roman Centurion had heard of the healing power of Jesus [Healing of Roman Official’s son John 4:46-54]
- The Centurion acted and made a request for his servant to be healed through the Jews.
 - This differs from the Matthew 8:5-13 account
 - The Centurion sent messengers to Jesus, as he expresses.
- The Centurion was a reputable person with the Jews to speak on his behalf.
- Jesus responds to the request and is willing to go to the Centurion's house.
- The Centurion, in spite of his request doesn’t feel worthy for the Righteous Jesus to be in his house, but acts further on his faith, by suggesting, “speak the word only.”
- The faith of the centurion amazes Jesus, really?
- The servant is healed in the same hour – what happens when you don’t get an answer that quick?

Life Application – Exercising Your Faith

- II Cor. 5:7 – we walk by faith and not by sight!
 - Walk (action word); don’t sit moping!
- James 1:3 – Know this, The trying of your faith worketh patience
- Isaiah 35:4 – The word says to be strong to the fearful hearted and that God will save us!
- Speak the Word of God! (what you are not speaking may be holding you back)
- Prov. 4:20-22 – The word says that we are to give attention to the Word of God. Doing such leads to health for the whole body (physical, mental, emotional, etc.)
- I Pet. 2:1-2 – In order to experience faith, lay aside malice, guile, hypocrisy, envies; Grow by desiring the sincere milk of the Word of God! What do you desire? To have your way?
- Psalm 1:1-2 “... his delight, is in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night...”

- Do you delight in God's Word? Or do you read it because you feel you have to? Or do you delight only in your will? Learn to delight in God's Word!
- Psalm 119: 16, 24, 35, 47-48, 92, 97, 103, 113, 127
 - This many scriptures speaking to delighting in God's Word, statutes and commandments is not accidental!

Closing

- Faith without works is dead – Let your feet (actions) demonstrate your faith!