

# FAITH Bible Study

## Introduction

- Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."
- Faith is a choice
- In order to walk in faith with God, we must yield control of our life to God.
- In order to walk in faith with God, we must believe God will come through for us.
- In order to walk in faith with God, we must believe He is Sovereign.
- Our faith starts with what we know and believe about God.
- Faith will mean nothing until we believe with all our heart that God is who He says He is. [LA]

## New D journey in the study of Faith will cover the following:

1. What is faith? (Hebrews 11:1)
2. Faith and Unbelief (Mark 6)
3. Faith vs. Fear
4. Obedience Through Faith (Romans 1:1-7)
5. Faith and Healing (Matthew 8)
6. Types of Faith

## What is Faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

- Do you remember how you felt when you were a child and your birthday or Christmas was approaching... there was excitement and you knew you would receive gifts. Some of which would be a surprise. Assurance and anticipation are combined in this experience.... That's what faith does. Faith is the assurance and confidence that God's prior blessings will continue in the form of new and fresh surprises in our lives.
- In Habakkuk and also in Hebrews 10, Galatians 3:11 is quoted and this sets the stage for Hebrews 11 (The Hall of Faith.)
  - Gal. 3:11 - But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
- Two elements are set for faith in this chapter. (1) a description (v1) and (2) examples of the demonstration of faith (v2 -).
- What Faith Isn't:
  - Faith is not a good feeling.
  - Faith is not naïve positivity
  - Faith is not a self-created "hope" attitude (wishful thinking)
  - Faith is not an intellectual agreement to a belief
  - Faith is not believing in spite of evidence of Jesus, through His Word.
- Faith is the assurance/substance/confidence
  - The beginning of faith is believing in God's character- He is who He says He is!
  - The ending of faith is believing on God's promises – He will do what He says!
- Faith is what makes our hope real and tangible
  - Land/Title deed as an example.
- ...things Hoped for

- There is no correlation between our modern-day use of hope with the hope referenced here. The assurance of knowing God makes it different!
- Evidence/conviction of things not seen
  - As a believer, we know that God will bring his unchanging character to pass.
- What we see in this world is depressing. (Buffalo, Texas, California, life, etc.), yet we have a hope in Jesus!
- What do we hope for: (Titus 2:11-14)
  - Forgiveness is found only in the cross of Jesus.
  - The Lord will never leave us nor forsake us
  - God is sovereignly overseeing the affairs of mankind
  - God will lead us according to the purpose of His will
  - Jesus will return for His Church
  - Physical death ushers us into His presence
  - We will receive a new spiritual body/death vanquished
  - We will be transformed into His likeness
  - We will be reunited with those who have died in Christ.
- How do you feel when your hope is dashed?
  - Be careful to not put your hope in things that God never promised.
  - Be careful to not put your hope in things that are tied to this life. (I Peter 2:11 – we are sojourners passing through; we are exiles to this world)
    - Colossians 3:2-4
  - Tough Scenario: Unanswered prayer resulting in fatality.
- Faith is a lifestyle – It’s how the righteous live.
  - We need to learn how to have a conversation that demonstrate faith.

### **Wrap Up from Week 1:**

Psalm 40:4 - Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

- When we are impatient what are we focusing on? Today or tomorrow?
- Could we ever fathom or even put together the life God has planned for us? Why do we try to figure it all out?
- When we point our focus back on God how does that help lead us in the direction God wants us to go?

### **Faith and Unbelief (Mark 6:1-6)**

- Previous chapter deals with healing experiences (i.e. “Daughter”, Jairus and his daughter, etc.)
- Faith plays a key part of seeing the power of God operating in our lives.
- Faith is a mystery at times – man of tombs. God was sovereign and delivered the man – no one was around and he doesn’t appear to demonstrate faith, but he enjoys the blessings of God.
- We will talk about the bottom side of faith, unbelief.
- Verse 6 speaks to Jesus marveling at their unbelief.
  - Jesus marveled at the Roman Centurion with the sick servant and He offers to go to his house, but he says for Jesus to speak the Word only. (Luke 7:9)

- Jesus returns to where he started his public ministry. (He read a prophecy, sat down and taught... "...in your hearing the prophecy is fulfilled..."; this should have only been stated by the Messiah.
- [2] They were amazed at what Jesus is saying and they begin to ask questions.
- [3] They asked the question "... is this not the carpenter?..." = sarcasm (people don't follow carpenters)
  - Who does this Jesus think he is?
  - Jewish culture: disrespectful to reference someone by their mother.
  - People were offended by who He is, He had done nothing to them.
- [4] People do not honor Jesus today for who He is.
- [5] Jesus didn't do a mighty work in Nazareth, based on their unbelief. Their unbelief limited what Jesus could do there. (Matt. 13:58)
- Why do we think we don't see miracles like this today? Could it be because we base our belief on our experience or knowledge? Are we much different than the people in Nazareth.
  - Believers can be overcome with unbelief. Jesus rebukes the apostles on several occasions, even after his resurrection.
  - Are we willing to accept the fact that our unbelief may be the reason that we don't see the miracles today
    - Heb. 3:12 - Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
  - Jesus asks a question regarding His second coming
    - Luke 18:8 – I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?
  - Society/Culture today has attempted to secularize everything! (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
  - I have to prepare my thought/conversation for what goes on in culture that conflicts with my faith in Jesus Christ and lead us to unbelief.
    - Guard your heart – if we don't our faith can be eroded by the constant attack against faith in Jesus.
    - Feed your heart & build your faith – if we don't actively do good things for our heart (Godly music, company, conversation, we may fall to unbelief.
    - Pray for God's love – if we don't, we will become bitter and angry and we will not be of good use for God. God loves us all, and we need to reflect God's love to everyone.
    - Be prepared to share the hope we have in Jesus – preparation takes time and effort. Practice your witness elevator speech.

### **Trusting God (Mark 6:7-44)**

- Jesus is preparing his disciples to go out and do ministry. He gave them the authority in the name of Jesus over sickness and demonic spirits. (Do we remember that we have the authority?)
  - [LA] We all have access to the authority. The areas of our gifting help us with the
    - Matthew 28:18-20 Great commission. Jesus has all authority and commissions us with that authority to go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey.
    - Often we limit a person's authority by their title, sex, tenure, age, etc. With this, we limit God's authority. What's worse, we often do it to ourselves.

- Jesus sends them out with nothing but a staff. (i.e. no bread, no money, no sandals, no tunic/coats, etc.) Jesus is putting them in a position to have to rely on God. **And God is faithful!**
  - In life we are ultra-prepared (money, insurance, investment, etc.), but in ministry, we are dependent on the Lord.
  - How often are you in a position, where you are totally dependent on God? We spend a life time talking about trusting God, but work feverishly to provide for ourselves and not have to depend on Him.
- [11] There will be times, where you will not be received. Shake the dust off of your feet.
  - God has provided the opportunity to reject God, but there are consequences.
- [13] The disciples did what he said and they were effective.
- People are trying to act like they know.... People are passionate about their opinions, but they are frequently wrong when they lean on their own understanding [LA]
- [17-29] goes into a narrative on the death of John the Baptist.
- Jesus gets the disciples to go and take it easy to rest. He realized how much they had been running. They needed to be restored.
- The people followed them there and Jesus sees people with compassion and their need. He teaches them. He has compassion on needy people.
- Jesus then works the miracle to feed them with two fish and five loaves.

### Led into the Storm (Mark 6:45-56)

- Jesus send the disciples away in a ship.
- Jesus goes to go pray.
- During the 4<sup>th</sup> watch (3am – 6am) the disciples are fighting the winds that are against them.
- Jesus goes to them walking on the water, identifies himself, gets in the boat and the winds cease.
- Once they land in Gennesaret, the sick are laid out in the street for Jesus to heal.
  - Reference to touching the boarder of his garment to be made whole – Daughter has been ministering!

### Wrap Up from Week 2:

Ephesians 6:16 -Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

- How does our faith allow us to stand firm against the Devil?
- Does our resistance of the Devil com from our own power?
- What was Paul's request for prayer? Where does his boldness come from? Where can we find the power to be bold in our faith?

### Faith vs. Fear

- Previous lesson dealt with faith and our belief. This is key to how we deal with faith and fear. The soundness of our belief in Jesus will serve as the foundation of how we manage fear.
- There is a battle that is going on for our hearts and minds.
- Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)
  - Offer your body as a living sacrifice.
    - We should do this anyway because it already belongs to the Lord.
    - We have stewardship over children, marriage, things, that should be offered back to the Lord – they represent the physical life.

- I Cor. 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
    - We should offer our body as a form of spiritual worship – we don't own our bodies.
    - To offer your body as a sacrifice is to live for the creator... to keep your body as your own is to worship the creation. We should worship the Creator, not the creation.
    - Philippians 1:21-22 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. (ESV)
      - For me to live is Christ, this is contrary to what the world tells us. The world
  - Do not be conformed to this world.
    - Conformed – comply with the world, it's rules and standards.
    - It appears the warning is for believer to not become conformed to the world... that means it's possible for believers to find themselves in this state.
    - It looks like living like they live, liking what they like, doing what they do...
    - If not careful, we can become comfortable with how the world responds, acts, behaves, thinks....
    - The Lord has given us His Spirit and we have to choose Him everyday!
    - How have we taken our cues from the world? Do we embrace the worlds feelings, thoughts and fears?
      - Col. 3:1-3 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)
      - We have to live life and deal with the day to day, but we can't stay there!
    - The world has been overtaken with fear based off of recent events – where fear has dominated the world.
  - We should be transformed by the renewing of our mind.
    - That by testing, we will know the will of God.
    - Renewal of the mind takes place when we apply faith to the Word of God that we hear and know.
- The impact of the societal events on the body of Christ (i.e. Covid-19, Mass Shootings, Monkey Pox, etc.)
  - The world will freak out, and we should expect such. But should the body of Christ have the same response?
  - Since the recent experiences have we focused on the here and now (i.e. fear/dread,) or have we focused on eternity? Have we spent more time focusing on how we think we can protect ourselves more than on eternity?
  - Do we still fear, death of the body?
  - If Jesus were walking the Earth today, what would he say?
    - “Fear not...” (103 times in the Bible)

- To not be anxious about our lives (Matt. 6 -Sermon on the Mount) Jesus tells us, not to be anxious. And just prior to this scripture He says, don't lay up treasures for yourself on this Earth..... and this is what causes anxiousness.
  - We should be showing the world our hope and confidence in the Lord! We should be demonstrating a unshakable faith! Not arrogant, but that we have hope in something greater than this life.
  - II Tim. 1:7 - for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
    - Fear is not of God
    - God desires to prepare us through faith, not fear.
  - Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)
    - Acknowledge the Lord in all of our ways.
    - There are physical benefits to trusting the Lord (health to our bones, is referenced later in Prov. 3)
    - We have to choose to trust God
  - John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
    - We have to choose to not let our hearts to be troubled. (ESV)
    - We have to come back to the cross and confess that we have given control over to fear. Some may need to repent from fear as a sin.
      - Fear is something that we choose and that we have done. Some have habitually responded in fear when challenged.
      - We should want the Lord's peace.
  - Phil. 4:5-7 - Let your reasonableness<sup>[a]</sup> be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)
    - The promise/condition is understand the Lord is at hand, don't be anxious (don't let your heart cause you to fret). If we then pray to God, tell Him what we need, then the Peace of God will guard our hearts and mind. There is a condition/promise for how to experience the Peace of God.
    - Don't be anxious about how the world is going – It's not going to get any better. (i.e. democracy and Christianity are on the way out)
- Luke 18:8 - I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"
  - When He comes will He find faith or fear and dread
- Mark 4:35-41 Jesus Calms a Storm
  - 3 types of storms going on: external storm (wind/rain), internal storm (emotional), and a spiritual storm (when in a crisis, sometimes, we may feel as though Jesus doesn't care.)
  - Being in the will of God is not measured by the lack of storms.
  - Peace has nothing to do with external circumstances, it has everything to do with remaining calm when all around you is collapsing.
    - Peace let's us rest in God even though all else is ridiculous.
    - Let's await the great calm
  - Jesus asks the question, "Why are you so afraid?"
    - Before they left, Jesus said "Let us go across to the other side."
    - There was a promise from the Lord that all things will work out.

- What do you believe? What God said or what you see?
- Then they were filled with great fear. God want's us to fear Him more than our circumstance.
  - They were coming to terms with who Jesus was – the winds and seas obey Him!
  - Do you know who you are dealing with?

## Week 1 Bible Study - Focus on Today

- Hebrews 3:15 - While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.
- It is easy to focus on the worries of tomorrow, however focusing on today enables us to see our blessings.
- Become a TODAY seed planter! We plant the seeds of tomorrow.....today.
  - You can only plant the seeds you have, today.
- The only way to walk in God's will is to walk in faith with God.
  - Our faith in God is what helps us overcome the burdens of daily life.

### Life Application

- What seeds can you plant today?
- Read Matthew 6:19-34. Do you have faith in someone or something other than God?
- What daily actions do you take to control this someone or something?
- If you had faith in God would you need to try to control Him?

### Memory Verse

Psalm 40:4 - Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

**Day 1:** Write out the memory verse by hand.

**Day 2:** Write the memory verse out on 4 sheets of paper (sticky notes) and place them in different areas of your house.

**Day 3:** Look up 3 different versions of memory verse.

**Day 4:** write the memory verse out ten times.

**Day 5:** Read Psalm 40 and journal your thoughts.

**Day 6:** Write out the memory verse 3 times by memory.

**Day 7:** Share your scripture with someone not currently doing this study.



## Week 2 Bible Study - Focus on Truth

- More often than we would want to admit, we lie to ourselves, that we can handle something or that “we got it”, when really, we don’t.
  - When we live a life where we try to control everything , our fear and stress begin to control us and our actions.
- To live a life of faith, we have to realize the truth. Truth = God is the one in control
  - Realizing that God is in control of everything is the first step of focusing on the truth.
  - The next step is allowing God to have control over your life.
- Choose to surrender your life to God

### Life Application

- What do you try to control in your life?
- What do you cling to for your security?
- If God asked you to let this go, would you? Why or why not?

Pray to God and tell Him you can’t do it. Tell Him you can’t manage it all. Tell Him you are scared. Tell Him to then fill you with His truth.

### Memory Verse

Ephesians 6:16 - Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

**Day 1:** Write out the memory verse by hand.

**Day 2:** Write the memory verse out on 4 sheets of paper (sticky notes) and place them in different areas of your house.

**Day 3:** Look up 3 different versions of memory verse.

**Day 4:** write the memory verse out ten times.

**Day 5:** Read Ephesians Chapter 6 and journal your thoughts.

**Day 6:** Write out the memory verse 3 times by memory.

**Day 7:** Share your scripture with someone not currently doing this study.

## Week 3 Bible Study – God Wants Commitment

- At times, our faith walk will cause us to doubt. When doubt arises, we strive to think of alternatives that will alleviate the discomfort we are experiencing.
- Doubt tests our commitment to God and His plan for our lives.
- Through our commitment to God's will and plan, we will begin to see beauty in His Blessings.
- When we find ourselves in an experience, if we know in our heart without any doubt that this is where God has put us, then we need to cling to that truth when the doubt creeps in, and we are ready to break our commitment.
- Commitment is an act; it is a promise we have made in our hearts. We need to take our expectations out of the picture and allow God's plan to unfold before our eyes.
- Anything we plan for our life could never compare to the plans God has for our life.

### Life Application

- Are you committed to God's will for your life?
- Do you often have a Plan B in case something doesn't go the way you hoped it would?
- Do you struggle with doubt when things seem to be going wrong?
- Do you feel abandoned by God when things don't go according to plan?

### Memory Verse

James 1:3 – Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

**Day 1:** Write out the memory verse by hand.

**Day 2:** Write the memory verse out on 4 sheets of paper (sticky notes) and place them in different areas of your house.

**Day 3:** Look up 3 different versions of memory verse.

**Day 4:** write the memory verse out ten times.

**Day 5:** Read Ephesians Chapter 6 and journal your thoughts.

**Day 6:** Write out the memory verse 3 times by memory.

**Day 7:** Share your scripture with someone not currently doing this study.