

Week 40 – Faith: Believing God for the Impossible

Faith is the Hand of the Soul

The author of Hebrews wrote: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is a substance. When faith comes, doubts diminish, hopelessness fades, and despair disappears. Faith is the confidence that the all-powerful God will come through. To the natural eye, it makes no sense, but to the one in faith, it’s equally as real as anything he knows.

One of the challenges of the Christian walk is that we serve an invisible God. Since this is the case, we need to learn how best to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). When Thomas heard from the other disciples that Jesus appeared to them after His resurrection, he was incredulous and said, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

Jesus, when He appeared again to a group of disciples including Thomas, graciously showed Thomas what He sought. But He also said, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed” (John 20:29).

While God has given many pieces of evidence of His existence – through nature, the incarnation and the Word – the walk of a Christian is principally by faith and not by sight. Walking by faith means believing in the faithfulness of God rather than fretting over adverse or challenging circumstances. Faith continues to look at and believe the promises of God as more real than our circumstances.

Consider Abraham, the “father of faith” of whom it is said: “In hope against hope he believed so that he might become the father of many nations... Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God...” (Romans 4:18-20)

We need to begin seeing faith as it really is: **POWERFUL!** Faith moves God to act on our behalf because we trust in Him rather than in our own abilities. Faith is how we live as Christians, and essential to our success and a fulfilled life.

Principles for Growing Our Faith

One woman pleased Jesus by her abundant faith and persistence and received the deliverance she sought. Her story, recorded in the gospel of Mark, is a model for those who want to grow their

faith so that it is effective and pleasing to God. In this story, we see several steps to building faith...
(to be continued in our next lesson)

Review

1. What is faith?
2. What does “walking by faith” mean?
3. What is the purpose of faith?
4. Why is faith powerful?
5. Do you have a “favorite” faith story in the Bible? (such as Joshua against Jericho in Joshua 6; David against Goliath in I Samuel 17; Elijah against the false prophets in I Kings 18; Moses and the Red Sea in Exodus 14; Paul on the ship in Acts 27)