Series: "FAITH TO BELIEVE" Part 1: "DESPITE DOUBTS" Crossroads Community Church March 7, 2021

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Faith Defined:

Faith is believing _____ God says He is and believing He will do _____ He says

¹¹ The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." ¹³ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." Judges 6:11-13 (NIV)

4 Questions that feed our doubt:

1. Does God really _____ about us?

¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Judges 6:14 (NIV)

¹⁵ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." Judges 6:15 (NIV)

2. Does God ______ what He's doing?

¹⁶ The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive." Judges 6:16 (NIV) ²⁵ That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶ Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering." Judges 6:25-26 (NIV)

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. Judges 6:27 (NIV)

3. Will God take _____ of me?

²⁹ They asked each other, "Who did this?" When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it." ³⁰ The people of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it." ³¹ But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar." Judges 6:29-31 (NIV)

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

4. Does God ______ His _____?

³⁶ Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." Judges 6:36-37 (NIV)

³⁸ And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water. Judges 6:38 (NIV)

Sermon Notes: