



COVENANT CHURCH

Hall of Faith – Part 1
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Main Idea – Your original faith to believe that Jesus is the Messiah came as a gift to you from God. However, it is your responsibility to develop and exercise that faith so that others will be inspired and also believe. Good Christians who lived before you should inspire you to live that same kind of meaningful life.

Allow God to build your legacy

- Most everyone would like to leave behind a good legacy; the example of a life well-lived.
- The Bible is full of stories of early believers whose lives inspire us today. Their lives serve as a type of witness – or example - of what to shoot for in our own lives.
- It is the *sum substance* of a person's life that matters – not the individual victories and defeats here and there. **Hebrews 12:1-2a – Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (NKJV)**
- Because of God's perfect love, imperfect people are able to finish their races.
- Just as God used Abel's gift from faith as a permanent legacy (see **Genesis 4:1-7**), so too will He use your good example to inspire others. **Hebrews 11: 1-4 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. (NKJV)**
- In the same way, Jesus' original sacrifice by love continues to be given again each time you do something nice for someone else.

Preparation is required if you are going to be a good example for others

- Offering yourself to God is not something that should be done casually.
- God is not trying to take things from you, He is trying to get more things to you, and through you.
- The fundamental faith you were given by God as a gift of grace needs to be developed

and exercised. Your faith will not get stronger if you don't pay attention to it.

- Fear comes from the lack of a developed faith. You have the choice to either develop your faith or to be consumed by fear. Faith and fear are opposing forces. God - through Jesus - offers love; Satan advances fear.
- Faith will lead you toward a good legacy. Fear will lead you away from it.

Your faith will be demonstrated by your actions

- It is important that good things come from your faith.
- You should genuinely feel your faith inside you, and then express that faith by what you do and say. **James 2: 14-17 – What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (NKJV)**

From where your faith comes

1. *From God.*

- a. **Genesis 2:7 – And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (NKJV)**
- b. **Romans 12:3 – For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (NKJV)**
- c. God gave you your faith. It is your responsibility to exercise and use it. Your faith will get stronger through your life's trials and challenges.

2. *From His Word*

- a. Faith gets stronger by hearing, reading, and speaking God's Word.
- b. It is not negotiable that you need to read the Bible each day as an on-going, continual source of influence - regardless of whether good or bad things are happening in your life at a given time. **Romans 10: 14-17 – How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord,**

who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (NKJV)

- c. The Bible passages you read each day will determine the foundation of your life. Establish each day on a good foundation. **Matthew 7: 24-27 – “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (NKJV)**

3. *From your word*

- a. When you repeat what you have read in the Bible it will strengthen your own faith, and the faith of those who hear you correctly use God’s Word.
- b. When you give your testimony, you will share/loan your faith to someone else who will be inspired by what you’ve said or done.
- c. Oftentimes, your testimony – and God’s power – will come through your own endurance during difficult times. **Romans 5: 1-5 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (NKJV)**

We are all expected to participate

- It is expected that you will participate in the works of our common Christian faith.
- Although your salvation does not depend on what you do with your faith, God is keeping track.
- Live your life with God’s guidance so that your life will be an inspiration to those believers who are coming behind you.
- Don’t let Satan, or life’s bad events, or the careless words of others, prevent you from living your faith.
- Don’t live your life alone; get out on the field with your fellow friends in Christ.

Reflective Questions for Hall of Faith – Part 1

1. Is there someone in your family's legacy - or from your environment's legacy - that is an inspiration to you? What did that person do - or represent - that has influenced how you try to live your own life?
2. Pastor Stephen taught that if you are going to offer God your talents and resources, they need to be developed. Can you give some examples from Scripture of where God powerfully used mature, seasoned people who had been through some trials in their lives?
3. What is some new thing you can do this week to exercise and develop your own faith?