

SERMON: GROWING IN FAITH

9-28-25

OPENER:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

There will be trying times for us. These difficult moments test our faith and trust in God. Our faith has been tested recently by recent events that reminds us of the death, cruelty and violence in this world. How unstable this world is and how things unexpected can happen in a moment.

Faith requires confidence in God even when it's impossible to understand what he's doing. Even when things look bad, we can trust that God knows what he is doing because he sees in full what we only see in part. He knows far more than we do, and he is always acting for his glory and our good.

1 Corinthians 13:11-13 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1. FAITH ISN'T A FEELING

When things are shaken we can feel full of doubt, and we can begin to slip into disbelief. But the security of our faith should never depend on our own emotions and feelings!

**FAITH ISN'T BASED ON OUR FEELINGS, BUT COMES FROM KNOWING
THE LORD.**

When doubts and questions creep into our hearts, we can be confident that it's not about the way we feel, but the way God feels about us. We can trust in God's character.

WE MAY NOT ALWAYS FEEL OUR FAITH BUT WE CAN STILL CHOOSE IT.

- > Faith believes for things that are cannot be seen.
- > Faith trusts in God over what is happening.

2. FAITH IS TWO PARTS

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

FAITH IS MORE THAN A BELIEF THAT GOD IS WITH YOU BUT ALSO THAT HE IS ALWAYS GOOD TO YOU.

3. WE CAN POSSESS LITTLE OR LARGE FAITH

Jesus spoke of no faith.

But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” Mark 4:40

Jesus spoke of little faith.

>Matthew 8:26 “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

>Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

>Matthew 6:30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Matthew 6:30;

Matthew 16:8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?”

And Jesus spoke of great faith.

> Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” Matthew 8:10,

> Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

4. WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED IT PRODUCES PATIENCE

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Why is patience a sign of strong faith?

Patience means you can wait. Patience means you can suffer through something for a length of time. When your faith is strong you can sit and wait it out. You are not anxious, or impulsive. You don't react to situations, but you can respond out of your confidence in God.

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

longsuffering = patience

In the New Testament, "patience" can be defined by two primary Greek words:

First: Makrothumia (μακροθυμία): From makros ("far") and thumos ("wrath" or "anger").

It's about a slow reaction time to offenses, enduring hardship without bitterness, and demonstrating forbearance even when wronged.

Second: Hupomone (ὑπομονή): From hypo ("under") and moneo ("to remain" or "to abide"), meaning to remain under something.

> It is the capacity to suffer through tough circumstances and difficult people without giving up or complaining.

> It involves overlooking offenses and responding to harshness with gentleness, kindness, and compassion.

>Patience is an active form of waiting and an ability to focus on what truly matters.

> Patience is a deep trust in God's timing and a willingness to let go of the desire to control situations or fix them independently.

5. WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TRIED IT IS PURIFIED

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

ILLUSTRATION:

The process of purifying gold....The ore is extracted from the earth. At this point, the gold is mixed in among a variety of other metals. The value of gold is most realized when gold is purer, so the goldsmith has to refine the ore. Gold melts at around 2000° F. Gold is very dense, so the impurities tend to come to the surface as the gold melts down. Those impurities are then scrapped off and the gold is cooled. Then the process is repeated. Again and again, until the greatest purity is reached.

If you and I were to experience what gold experienced, we would categorize it as suffering. Ripped from the ground. Broken up. Super-heated. Scrapped. Cooled. Super-heated again. Scrapped again. The whole experience would be brutal. But in the end, you have a brick of pure gold.

Proverbs 17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.

Our faith can have others things mixed in it. Beauty and purity come through the refiner's fire. God uses suffering for our sanctification.

**HARD TIMES REVEAL WHAT YOUR FAITH IS MADE OF.
IF YOUR FAITH HAS IMPURITIES IN IT, IT WILL RISE
TO THE SURFACE.**

**Joseph said this...Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good,
(talk about Joseph)**

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

If your faith needs to grow, highlight this in your Bible and meditate on i this week.....

**Isaiah 54:14-17 In righteousness you shall be established;
You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you. 15 Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. 16 “Behold, I have created the blacksmith, Who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy. 17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.**

6. WHEN WE OVERCOME TRIALS WITH FAITH IT PRAISES AND HONORS GOD

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.