

Peoples Church: Small Group Questions

Date: January 29, 2017

Speaker: Pastor Dale Oquist

Title: Activate – Putting Your Faith to Work (Dynamic Faith, Genesis 15:1-6)

Looking Back: We need a dynamic faith, not a static faith for today. Static faith is simply “holding on”, with no challenges to embrace. An active, dynamic faith, instead, is to fill our time between our conversion until the end, where we say, “I can’t stay where I am!” A dynamic faith sees the produce of the Promised Land, and not the problems. Faith is not a hunch or a magical potion or conjuring ourselves into a frenzy of activity; faith is believing before you see the results. Read Genesis 15:1-6.

1. Is my faith presently static, or is it dynamic? How would others, observing my faith, answer?

Digging Deeper: Genesis 15:1 is approximately ten years after the promises given to Abram in 12:1-3. At this point, Abram is poorer (not having taken the spoils of war in Genesis 14 and tithing his possessions to King Melchizedek), and he still has no son or land. The result, Fear! The Lord appears to Abram, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am your shield, I am your very great reward.” As a shield, God protects Abram, having done so in the past and now promising to continue to do so in the future. God is also a reward, as we read in Hebrews 11:6.

2. Describe a time when God was a shield for you. Also, how has He recently rewarded you directly, and not because of your own ability?

Taking it Home: Abram had doubts, like the man in Mark that said, “I believe, help my unbelief!” Doubt is not the same as blatant unbelief. Pastor Dale said that “faith is big enough for doubt; it is through doubt that faith is built.” For God speaks to Abram again in Gen. 15:4-5, taking him outside to look at the stars in the night sky. Abram is told that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Abram looked on God’s promises for a son from a new perspective—the stars being all the descendants that would result from Abram’s faith. Now, Abram needed to have faith not just for himself, but for all the others that would be affected by his faith and obedience. In Gen. 15:6, Abram believed not only in the Word of God, but in the God of the Word.

3. Be honest: What doubts are you struggling with now— How can you gain a new perspective on God’s promises for your life, promises that haven’t yet been realized?
4. Pastor Dale also stated that “God is always late; but He’s always on time!” Do you see truth in this statement?