

DATE: January 8, 2017

SPEAKER: Pastor Dale Oquist

ACTIVATE: PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK

1. What would you attempt for God if you knew you wouldn't fail?

LOOKING BACK: In the beginning of 2016, Pastor Dale asked, "What would you attempt for God if you knew you wouldn't fail?" Now looking back at that question, will you take it seriously this year? It is all by faith if you will take it seriously or not.

2. What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1-3, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval."

By faith, we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Hebrews 11:6, "And 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 seek Him.

Pastor Dale spoke on how it is impossible to please God without faith. Faith is essential for Christians to understand. If it is impossible to please God without faith, we must understand what it is and how to build on it. Faith sees the future in the present. The world says, "I'll believe it if I see it." That's not faith. Faith is believing even when you don't see.

The quality or quantity of our faith isn't what's important. Our efforts are weak in comparison to an all-powerful God. It is the *object* of our faith that matters.

DIGGING DEEPER: In Hebrews 11:24 we read that Moses had faith that the heavenly treasures to come were more than the earthly treasures he had inherited.

3. Have you ever prayed and still worried?

Pastor Dale shared the story from Mark 9:14-25 of a man desperate to get the demons out of his son. The man had heard of Jesus and wanted his disciples to pray and cast them out. The disciples prayed for the man's son, but nothing happened. Jesus comes onto the crowd and the man explains why the disciples were not able to help the child.

In Mark 9:22, the man states, "But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" The man didn't have full faith in Jesus by stating "*if* you can do anything." Jesus let the man know that everything is possible in the one who believes.

4. The man responds to Jesus in Mark 9:24, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" What does this statement mean to you? Can you relate to it?

TAKING IT HOME:

We must believe in our faith, but we must **activate** our belief. Pastor Dale shared that we can believe that we can fall and somebody will be there to catch us. If we don't have faith, we really don't have belief. Sometimes it takes that jump to prove our faith. Faith is the hand of the soul that reaches for God and never returns empty.

The most important decisions in our lives will require 100% commitment without 100% guarantees.

5. Do you feel like you have activated your belief?