

Holy Spirit, Part 13 - Unleash Your Faith
Pastor Fremon Williams
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Introduction

We may not always think we are the best - but we should tell ourselves we are the best until we believe it. Because the best is living on the inside of US!! There is faith in ourselves and there is faith in God, both are equally important.

Jude 1:17-20 [NLT]

¹⁷ But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ predicted. ¹⁸ They told you that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires. ¹⁹ These people are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's Spirit in them. ²⁰ But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, ...

Our Fear and Doubts

- How many of us turn to our own way out of fear?
- How many of us lean on our own abilities in the midst of challenges instead of the Holy Spirit?
- How many of us return to what's easy when things get hard?
- What do we turn to? What are we leaning on that's not the Holy Spirit?
- Our intelligence? Not understanding the Bible so we just not going to believe. If we just blindly trust God? Will we get taken advantage of?
- Our money? We have to make a certain amount in case something ever happens, we have enough to provide for ourselves. But wonder if we start tithing if we'll go broke.
- Our Habits? Wondering if these are the only things that makes us happy, thinking if we don't do it, we won't have joy.
- The person we are sleeping with? If we don't stay with this person, then we'll end up being lonely.
- Our friends? If we stop hanging out with them, will we get bored and go crazy and have nothing to do?
- Our fears? What if they laugh at us, what if they never get healed, what if we don't get that job, don't get into that school?

All this leads to the question what is our faith in? Is our Faith in God or fear of something not going the way we want it to?

What does God speak to us?

We may not always think we are the best - but we should tell ourselves we are the best until we believe it. Because the best is living on the inside of US!! There is faith in ourselves and there is faith in God, both are equally important.

Here is a visual of how equally important faith in ourselves and faith in God can be.

	High	
Faith in God	Anxious	
	Unbelieving	Pride
Low	Low	High
	Faith in Self	

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 [NIV]

¹¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Faith is a willingness to trust in, to rely on, and to cling to.

- A conviction
- A belief
- A foundation
- A confidence in what you cannot see.

Faith is not

- A feeling
- The absence of fear, but faith gives you the ability to fight in the mist of fear...

Faith in Self

2 Corinthians 3:4-5 [NLT]

⁴ We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. ⁵ It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.

- Make no mistake, the faith in ourselves, comes from God.

Faith in God

Ephesians 2:8-9 [NIV]

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Story of Criminal hanging next to Jesus - it was BY FAITH, he was saved, not his works. He was hanging next to Jesus but had FAITH in Him and was saved.

Luke 23:39-43 [NLT]

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?" ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Why is Faith such a big deal?

Matthew 21:22 [NLT]

²² You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.

Hebrews 11:6 [NIV]

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God,...."

Faith is a foundation to our salvation - without faith it is impossible to please God. But it's one of those foundational things we tend to move away from.

Matthew 17:19-20 [NLT]

¹⁹ Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" ²⁰ "You don't have enough faith,"

Every Great Leader in the Bible demonstrated extraordinary faith.

- Noah - He trusted God to make the Ark, no one believed Him... But Because of His Faith, he was able to help humanity.

Walking By Faith is not just going to help us, but will help those that come after us and our family and friends.

- Gideon - Was the least liked person in His Tribe, and kept asking God to show Him a sign. Then he took 300 men, and conquered David - he was the smallest in family but God used Him.
- Moses' successor, Joshua's received his call to lead the people to the promise land. It should have been so exciting, so why did God need to keep telling him to be strong.

Everyone of these extraordinary leaders also had moments of fear, they also had moments where they needed to unleash their faith.

There is more in us and more that God wants to do through us than we think, but we have to unleash our faith!

- Faith to overcome sickness.
- Faith for our future.
- Faith that things will get better in our families.
- Faith that God will protect us.
- Faith to lead that Alive Group.
- Faith for our children to live for God.
- Faith that God will provide us better friends, if we stop hanging with others.
- Faith to live out our God given purpose.

How do We to Unleash Our Faith

Jude 1:20 [NLT]

²⁰ "But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,"

1. Build It

We must build each other up. We should have people around us that builds us up, not tear us down. God's will for our lives is to be built up. We should listen, watch and say things that build us up. We should be in environments that build us up. We should read scriptures out loud.

Romans 10:17 [ESV]

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Practice saying these four things everyday:

- God is on His throne
- His promises are true
- The Devil is a liar
- My faith brings me victory

2. Fight For It

In our most holy faith [most holy... Holy means Sacred, morally blameless, pure] our body is holy, our life is holy and our faith is holy, we should protect it and honor it.

We should not:

- Let people speak fear over us
- Let movies portray fear in you
- Let songs suggest to you anything that's opposite of your faith, music has power and sometimes that power can pouring negativity into our spirit.

3. Get Immersed in It

- Pray in the power, not in our own might.
- Not by working harder, but by surrendering more to His Power.
- God wants us to have power, but sometimes that means we have to be immersed in situations that make us uncomfortable.
- It's the people that are willing to put themselves in uncomfortable situations that see the promises and power of God.
- Praying in the Holy Spirit is uncomfortable for some of us - even hearing it - it makes us squirm a little bit, but it's what builds us up.

Don't be a Lounge Chair Christian

Some of us go to Church to check off our list, but don't want the benefits of the Church by just sitting back in the lounge chair. We should be in Church long enough to help others learn how to be better Christians. We should not the feeling of being uncomfortable or fear hold us back!! God is calling us to unleash our faith!!!

Discussion Questions

1. How can we help others to become better Christians?
2. How can we help others to become more comfortable in their faith?
3. How is both 'faith in ourselves' and 'faith in God', equally important?