

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**February 4, 2024 "Leap of Faith: The Heart of the Leap"**

### **I Intro.**

Okay, we're into 2024 now, and we've got a lot going on. We don't want you to miss out on anything. So, make sure you stay connected to keep informed. We hope you are fed and ministered to by NCC, and that you can be an essential part of us moving forward. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know. This is our weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from Sunday's message. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. You can use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey.

### **II Sunday.**

Ready? JUMP?! Here we go into a brand new series. Let's start off with a couple of questions.

**What's the physically scariest thing you've ever done?**

**What's the existentially scariest thing you've ever done?**

**What did you have to overcome to do that thing?**

We're doing this "*Leap of Faith*" series for two reasons. One, it's a leap year. Get it?! Two, sometimes we get into places in our daily lives where it's time to step out of our comfort and security. It doesn't have to be a big life changing step. But often there is this tiny nagging voice inside of us telling us it's time for a change, something different. We call it 'holy discontent'. It's not an unhappiness with life or with something specific in your life. Most of the time it's simply answering the question; "**Does what I'm doing matter?**" "**Am I making a difference?**" Life can often feel like the movie "*Groundhog Day*". Basically, we're going through the motions just existing rather than actually living...fully.

So, this series is not to push us in a particular direction, or do a specific thing. It's asking if we need to take that one step, that "*leap of faith*", into something that's been in the back of our mind for a while. Just whispering to us to take a risk. We want to help you if you find yourself in this place. And give you some assurance that it's okay. You can trust God. So, a couple more questions.

**What can help you step out of comfort into unknown new places?**

**What has to change, move inside of you to be able to do this?**

The scripture for this first Sunday was a simple one. **2 Corinthians 5:7**. It's a verse many of us are familiar with. And we probably use it without really giving it much thought to what it actually means. To push the point even further, my guess is we have a lot of scripture and pithy sayings that we haven't done much study about. We use them regularly but couldn't explain them. Anyway, read this passage out of several versions, to give you different words to play with, and then answer the questions.

**What jumped out to you about this passage?**

**How do you understand "leap" from this passage?**

**From this passage how would you trust stepping out in faith?**

Since this is just one little verse, there's not a whole lot of unpacking to do. It says what it says. We'll do a little context, and then draw some truths from it.

**1. Context.** This was happening in a time when people were struggling with doubt and frustration. Life was hard, people were growing tired, discouraged, losing hope. They were living in the weird spot of wanting to live, but life at times could be so hard they wondered if it just wouldn't be easier to give up. Just wait for Jesus to come back. This verse was an interruption in Paul's flow of thought. *"Oh by the way, in all of this difficult stuff we're battling, hard things we have to do, steps into the unknown to address all of these issues, we remember this";* **For we live by believing and not by seeing.** We have to understand "faith" as believing in a way that affects how we live. How we practice our faith. How our life should work. Faith is not the list of things we believe. Faith is how we live out our daily lives. It's in that believing, faith, trust, 'sureness', we can keep going. This is how we live.

## **2. Word study.**

*"Live"*- our walking around daily life. The inner beliefs and values that guide all we do.

*"Faith"*- confidence, sureness, trust that grows a faith. Leads to believing that instructs us how to live.

*"Sight"*- things we can name and identify, in visible form. We tend to trust only what we can see.

*"For"*- because. This answers WHY we live like we do. Why we make the choices and sacrifices we do. Why you're doing the hard things. The things you may not understand. You may not see the reasons or rationale. Paul said we don't live based on what we can see around us. There are unseen and more important things that are unseen, but more important.

Remember; *"We are not battling against flesh and blood enemies, but against bigger things we can't see."* (Ephesians 6:12)

Because there are things going on we miss...ALL THE TIME. We admit our limitations. And we trust, have confidence, 'sureness', because we don't need to see things to take a "leap of faith." There is a life out there we're supposed to be living. A life that matters, makes a difference. We trust without having to see it. We need to wrestle with the truth in this one verse and what it means in our lives.

**3. How do we do this?** This is easier said than done. Faith is the convictions, beliefs, values that are grown within us by the choices and commitments we make. What we declare as important and practice. Sometimes it's those convictions, beliefs, values (our faith) we've cultivated and grown, that we have to lean into to take that step into the unknown. It's like the wedding vows we make. They hold us in place when we're not feeling them in the moment. When we're not feeling it, we need something more solid than our feelings to hold us in place. It's these convictions, beliefs, values (our faith) that light the way in front of us, and helps us take that *"leap of faith"*. Something dependable, bigger than our emotions in the moment, that can illuminate those dark places that we're leaping into. Not necessarily to show us all there is. But to let us know of the promise it's going to be okay.

**Psalm 119:105 (NLT) Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.**

**So, how does this truth help undergird 2 Corinthians 5:7?**

**How can this help make a "Leap of Faith" less leap-like?**

## **III Challenge.**

**See how that works?** It's not really blind leap. It's a well lit path. Because it's based on a loving God and trusting in him. Like a child jumping out into their parents arms at the pool. THIS is the heart of living, taking *"leaps of faith"*. That's where the best leaps are taken. Can't stay in this place...there's this nagging inside of me telling me it's time for something new. **Are you ready to LEAP?**