

## **Radical Faith Part 8 – The Discipline of Faith**

### **5-Day Devotional: Speaking Life Through Radical Faith**

#### **Day 1: Faith That Pleases God**

##### **Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6**

Devotional: God is searching for faith. Not performance, not perfection, but simple, childlike faith that takes Him at His word. Hebrews 11:6 declares it is impossible to please God without faith. This isn't about earning His love—you already have that. This is about responding to His love with trust. When you believe God's promises despite contrary circumstances, something shifts in the spiritual realm. God loves faith so much that He passes over millions to respond to one person who simply believes Him. Today, ask yourself: Am I trying to please God through my efforts, or am I trusting His character and His promises? Faith isn't shouting louder; it's believing deeper. Let your trust in God's faithfulness be the offering that brings Him joy today.

#### **Day 2: Nothing Is Impossible with God**

##### **Reading: Luke 1:26-37; Matthew 19:23-26**

Devotional: "Nothing is impossible with God." These words from the angel to Mary weren't just for her miraculous situation—they're for yours too. Whatever mountain you're facing today, it isn't bigger than God. The problem isn't God's ability; it's often our willingness to believe beyond our natural limitations. When you declare, "I'm in an impossible situation," you're actually declaring God isn't big enough. But Scripture reminds us that what is impossible with man is possible with God. Your financial crisis, your broken relationship, your health challenge, your prodigal child—none of these are beyond His reach. Stop measuring your problems by your resources and start measuring them against God's unlimited power. You're not in an impossible situation; you're in a faith opportunity. Declare today: "My God specializes in impossibilities."

#### **Day 3: Establishing Godly Desires**

##### **Reading: Psalm 37:3-7; Philippians 4:6-8**

Devotional: Godly desire isn't wishful thinking—it's a conviction birthed from God's Word and prayer. Many believers aim at nothing and hit it consistently. But faith requires direction. Through Scripture and prayer, God reveals what He wants you to believe Him for. This isn't about selfish ambition; it's about aligning your heart with His purposes. When you meditate on God's promises and pray, the Holy Spirit highlights specific areas where He wants to demonstrate His faithfulness in your life. Write these down. Create a vision list. Don't just hope to "make it through" life—expect God to do exceedingly abundantly above all you ask or think. Your desires, when established in God's Word, become the compass that directs your faith. Today, ask God: "What do You want me to believe You for?"

#### **Day 4: The Discipline of Steadfast Faith**

**Reading: Hebrews 6:10-15; James 1:2-8**

Devotional: Most believers aren't defeated by lack of faith—they're defeated by lack of discipline in their faith walk. Sluggishness, spiritual dullness, and wavering rob more promises than unbelief. The passage of time and life's pressures choke out expectation. But God calls you to steadfastness. Noah built for 100 years. Abraham waited 25 years. Joseph endured 22 years before his dream manifested. The question isn't whether you have faith; it's whether you'll work that faith consistently. Don't become half-hearted. Don't drag your feet. Imitate those who through faith and patience inherited the promises. Your breakthrough isn't found in a one-time prayer but in daily, disciplined trust. When circumstances scream one thing and God's Word says another, choose to stand on the Word. Discipline your mind and body to align with what God has spoken, regardless of how long it takes.

#### **Day 5: Standing Until You See Victory**

**Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-10**

Devotional: "Having done all, stand." This isn't passive waiting—it's active resistance. The enemy wants you to quit, to grow weary, to accept defeat as normal Christian life. But you're called to more than survival; you're called to dominance. Stand fast in faith. Resist the devil steadfastly. Don't coexist with the enemy's lies; tread on them with the authority Christ gave you. Your labor in the Lord is never in vain. Though you may feel knocked down, the righteous rise again. Real Bible faith maintains joy even in persecution because it's connected to eternity,

not circumstances. Don't wait for your situation to change before you believe—believe, and watch God change your situation. Square your shoulders, look the enemy in the eye, and declare: "This ends when you're defeated, not before." Die with your boots on, still believing, still standing, still expecting God's faithfulness. Victory belongs to those who refuse to quit.

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## Radical Faith Part 8 – Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Hebrews 11** - Heroes of faith (referenced generally)
2. **Habakkuk 2** - Writing out the vision
3. **Philippians 4:19** - God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (alluded to)
4. **Matthew 17:20** (or **Matthew 21:21**) - Faith as a mustard seed moving mountains
5. **Hebrews 6:12** - "That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises"
6. **1 Corinthians 15:58** - "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"
7. **1 Corinthians 16:13** - "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave"
8. **Philippians 4:1** - "Stand fast in the Lord"
9. **Colossians 1:23** - "If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast"
10. **2 Thessalonians 2:15** - "Stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught"
11. **Hebrews 10:23** - "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"
12. **Hebrews 3:14** - "We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end"
13. **1 Peter 5:8-9** - "Be sober, be vigilant; your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion...resist him, steadfast in the faith"
14. **2 Peter 3:17-18** - "Beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord"

15. **Ephesians 6:13-14** - "Take up the whole armor of God...having done all, to stand"
16. **Psalms 112:7-8** - "He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord"
17. **2 Timothy 1:7** - "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"
18. **John 8:32** - "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (alluded to)

**Alluded to or Paraphrased:**

19. **Luke 18:8** - "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"
20. **Hebrews 11:6** - "Without faith it is impossible to please God"
21. **Matthew 19:26 / Mark 10:27 / Luke 18:27** - "With God all things are possible"
22. **Proverbs 24:16** - "A righteous man may fall seven times and rise again"
23. **Luke 10:19** - Authority to tread on serpents and scorpions (alluded to)
24. **1 Corinthians 11:1** - "Follow me as I follow Christ" (paraphrased)
25. **Matthew 5:44** - "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, pray for those who spitefully use you"

**Biblical Accounts Referenced:**

26. **Genesis 6-9** - Noah building the ark for 100 years
27. **Genesis 12-21** - Abraham waiting 25 years for Isaac
28. **Genesis 37-50** - Joseph's dreams and their fulfillment over 22 years

**Icebreaker Question:** Share about a time when you had to show discipline or persistence in pursuing something important to you. What kept you going?

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### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. God loves faith and it pleases Him - Without faith, it's impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**)
  2. Nothing is impossible with God - If nothing is impossible with God, then none of us are in an impossible situation
  3. Establish your desires - Godly desires are birthed through the Word of God and prayer
  4. Write the vision - Document what God has shown you and keep it before you
  5. The Discipline of Faith - Consistent application of faith through steadfastness and endurance
  6. Most believers aren't defeated by lack of faith, but by lack of discipline in their faith walk
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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Message

1. What does it mean to be "sluggish" in faith? (**Hebrews 6:12**)
  - How can we recognize when we're becoming spiritually dull or indifferent?
  - What are some warning signs you've noticed in your own life?
2. The pastor mentioned that "real Bible faith has real joy attached to it, even in the midst of persecution and difficulty."
  - How is this different from circumstance-based happiness?
  - Can you share an example of when you've experienced joy despite difficult circumstances?
3. Discuss the statement: "Most of the time, believers are defeated for a lack of discipline or steadfastness in their faith walk."
  - Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- What makes it hard to remain steadfast over time?

### Personal Reflection

4. The sermon emphasized the importance of having a vision list.
  - Have you created one? If so, what's on it?
  - If not, what's holding you back from writing out what God has shown you?
5. Who are you imitating in your faith walk? (**Hebrews 6:12 - "imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises"**)
  - Who are your faith heroes, either from Scripture or living today?
  - What specific qualities do they demonstrate that you want to develop?
6. Think about the Biblical examples mentioned:
  - Noah built the ark for 100 years
  - Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac
  - Joseph waited 22 years for his dreams to be fulfilled

How does this perspective challenge your current expectations about timing in your faith journey?

### Going Deeper

7. The pastor said, "If you aim at nothing, you're going to hit it all day long."
  - What specific promises from God's Word are you currently believing for?
  - How clearly defined are your faith goals?
8. Discuss the difference between:
  - Expecting according to natural circumstances vs. expecting according to God's promises
  - How do we shift from one to the other practically?
9. The sermon mentioned that our generation "shows up for the reward but doesn't show up for the labor."
  - How have you seen this tendency in yourself or others?

- What does biblical diligence look like in practical terms?
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## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

**Choose at least two of the following action steps:**

**Create or Update Your Vision List**

- Set aside time this week to pray and read God's Word
- Write down the specific things God is speaking to you about
- Include all areas: spiritual, relational, financial, physical, ministry
- Keep it somewhere you'll see it regularly

**Identify Areas of Sluggishness**

- Honestly assess where you've become spiritually dull or indifferent
- Confess any areas where you've quit believing God
- Recommit to standing in faith in those areas

**Memorize a Steadfastness Scripture Choose one of these verses to memorize:**

- **1 Corinthians 15:58**
- **1 Corinthians 16:13**
- **Hebrews 10:23**
- **1 Peter 5:8-9**

**Find a Faith Model**

- Identify someone whose faith you want to imitate
- Study their life (Biblical figure or contemporary believer)
- Write down 3 specific faith practices they demonstrate

**Speak to Your Mountain**

- Identify one specific challenge you're facing

- Find 3-5 scriptures that address it
- Speak those scriptures over your situation daily

#### ☐ **Forgiveness & Faith Action**

- If unforgiveness is blocking your faith, choose to forgive
- Bless someone who has wronged you
- Pray for those who have despitely used you

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### **Accountability Questions**

1. What is one area where you've been tempted to quit believing God?
2. How long have you been believing for this promise?
3. What would "not quitting" look like practically this week?
4. How can this group pray for you and hold you accountable?

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### **Key Quotes to Remember**

"There is something about believing God that will cause Him to pass over a million people to get to you." - Smith Wigglesworth

"You already have all the faith you need. You just need to exercise it."

"Real Bible faith is not connected to circumstance. It's connected to eternity."

"You're not called to just walk next to your enemy. You're called to tread on your enemy."

"Die with your boots on. Don't look at your enemy and run away. Look at your enemy and go, charge."

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### **Closing Application**

Personal Commitment:

I commit to being steadfast in my faith regarding:

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I will demonstrate discipline by:

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One person I will ask to hold me accountable:

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### Closing Prayer

Pray together using the prayer from the sermon as a guide:

*Father God, we thank you for your goodness and faithfulness. We commit to be steadfast, to be disciplined in our faith. We will not turn to the right or left, but look straight ahead to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We speak to fear and declare it has no place in us. We purpose to stand in faith, walking out the vision you've provided with integrity, holiness, character, and discipline. We thank you that as we walk in your word and obey your truth, we know the truth and the truth is setting us free. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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### Before Next Week

- Review your vision list daily
  - Practice speaking faith-filled words over your situations
  - Share your testimony with the group if you see breakthrough
  - Be prepared to share how you applied this week's teaching
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Remember: "He who promised is faithful!" (**Hebrews 10:23**)

**Final Thought:** A great example of the discipline of faith is found in **Mark 5:35-43**. As you read through this passage of Scripture what principles of discipline do you see in the faith of Jairus?