

Radical Faith – Part 2 – Establishing Our Desires

Day 1: The Foundation of Faith

Reading: Hebrews 11:6; Mark 9:14-29; Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional:

Faith is not optional in the Christian life—it is essential. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Yet faith is not a mysterious force reserved for spiritual giants; it is a gift available to all who choose to receive God's Word and His salvation in Christ. Today's reading reminds us that God rewards those who diligently seek Him. The father in Mark's account cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" This father reaches out with all the faith he had trusting God to make up the difference. Radical faith begins when we stop relying on our feelings or circumstances and anchor ourselves in God's unchanging Word. What area of your life needs a fresh injection of faith today? Come to God in prayer and begin to search His Word for promises that speak to those doubts. God's Word washes away doubt, faith will always displace fear. God is faithful to watch over His Word and perform it in our lives!

Day 2: Establishing Godly Desires

Reading: Psalm 37:3-6; John 15:1-8

Devotional:

Our desires shape our destiny. When we delight ourselves in the Lord through His Word and fellowship, He plants His desires within our hearts. This is not about getting whatever we want, but about wanting what God wants. As we abide in Christ and His Word abides in us, our desires align with His perfect will. The branch cannot bear fruit apart from the vine, and we cannot fulfill God's purposes apart from intimate connection with Him. Take inventory of your desires today. Are they rooted in God's Word or shaped by the flesh and the world around you? Spend time in Scripture, allowing God's truth to transform your thinking. As His desires become yours, you position yourself to ask according to His will and receive abundantly.

Day 3: The Power of Expectation

Reading: Psalm 145:15-19; Matthew 6:19-24

Devotional:

Where we fix our eyes determines what fills our hearts. Those who look expectantly to the Lord find Him faithful to satisfy their desires. God is near to all who call upon Him in truth, and He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him. But this requires intentionality—we must choose what we behold. In a world competing for our attention, we must guard our spiritual vision. Jesus warned that if our eye is bad, our whole-body fills with darkness.

What are you looking at?

Social media comparisons?

Financial anxieties?

Past disappointments?

Redirect your gaze to the Lord today. Meditate on His faithfulness, His promises, and His character. As you look expectantly to Him, watch how your perspective shifts and hope rises.

Day 4: Prayer: The Place of Divine Direction

Reading: 1 Samuel 23:1-14; James 1:5-8

Devotional:

David consistently inquired of the Lord before making decisions, and God faithfully provided direction. Prayer is not merely asking God to bless our plans; it is the sacred space where we surrender our desires and receive His wisdom. In fellowship with God, our plans are confirmed or corrected, our desires are refined or redirected. James promises that God gives wisdom generously to those who ask, but we must ask in faith without doubting. Radical faith operates when we bring our decisions, dreams, and desires before God and trust His response.

What decision are you facing today?

Have you inquired of the Lord?

Don't move forward based solely on logic, circumstances, others' opinions, or a prophetic word. Seek God's face through prayer and wait for His direction, His confirmation of what is right for you.

Day 5: Faith in Action

Reading: Mark 11:20-24; Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional:

Jesus demonstrated that radical faith moves from desire to declaration. When He spoke to the fig tree, His words carried the authority of heaven because they flowed from a heart aligned with the Father. He taught His disciples that whatever they desire when they pray, if they believe they receive it, it shall be done. This is not positive thinking—it is faith anchored in God's promises. Hebrews calls us to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. He is our example of faith that overcomes obstacles. Today, identify one promise from God's Word applicable to your situation. Speak it in faith, believing God will bring it to pass. Nothing is impossible for those who believe.

Radical Faith Part 2 - Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Luke 18:8** - "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
2. **Hebrews 11:6** - "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 diligently seek Him."
3. **Matthew 17:20** - "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
4. **Matthew 19:26** - "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
5. **Mark 9:23** - "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."
6. **Mark 10:27** - "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."
7. **Luke 1:37** - "For with God nothing will be impossible."
8. **Luke 18:27** - "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."
9. **Mark 11:24** - "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

10.Psalm 37:3-4 - "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

11.Romans 4 - (Referenced regarding Abraham and Sarah's faith).

12.Proverbs 31 - (Referenced regarding qualities of a godly wife).

Alluded to Scripture References:

13.Romans 8:32 - (Alluded to: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?").

14.James 1:17 - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

15.Matthew 7:11 / Luke 11:13 - (Alluded to: "If you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give...").

16.Proverbs 4:18 - (Alluded to: "The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day").

17.Philippians 4:13 - (Alluded to: "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you").

18.Luke 5:12-13 - (The leper saying "If you will, you can make me clean" and Jesus responding "I am willing").

19.Galatians 3:13 - (Theme of Jesus fulfilling the law).

20.Psalm 84:11 - (Alluded to: God "withholding no good thing").

Suggested Supporting Verses for Main Themes:

- **2 Corinthians 5:7** - "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (theme of faith not based on feelings).
- **Hebrews 11:1** - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
- **John 1:12** - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God" (receiving Jesus by will).
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - Salvation by grace through faith.

- **1 Samuel 23:2-4** – David inquired of the Lord.
 - **1 Samuel 23:9-12** – David inquired of the Lord.
 - **1 Samuel 30:7, 8** – David inquired of the Lord.
 - **2 Samuel 2:1** – David inquired of the Lord.
 - **2 Samuel 30:7, 8** – David inquired of the Lord.
 - **Hebrews 12:2** – Looking unto Jesus.
-

Radical Faith Part 2 – Personal And Small Group Study Guide

All Things Are Possible To Those Who Believe

Opening Prayer Exercise: -The Open Hand Practice - Physically practice opening your hands during prayer as a symbol of receiving from God (like Psalm 145:16). Make this a regular prayer posture when asking God to satisfy godly desires.

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

This week's message focused on how radical faith begins with establishing godly desires—desires birthed from God's Word and prayer rather than our circumstances or disappointments. We explored how God satisfies the desires He places in our hearts when we delight ourselves in Him.

Main Points:

- Faith pleases God more than anything else
- Godly desire is birthed from the Word of God and prayer
- God rewards those who diligently seek Him
- Our desires must be aligned with God's Word to operate in radical faith

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Understanding Desire (15 minutes)

1. The pastor defined "Godly Desire" as "a conviction within a believer birthed from the Word of God and prayer directed at possessing the promises of God." How is this different from worldly desires or wishes?
2. Look at the list of desires mentioned in the sermon (eternity, spiritual maturity, finances, healing, marriage, children, etc.). Which areas of your life have you allowed God's Word to shape your desires? Which areas have you struggled to surrender? How will you begin to make changes in the areas where you have struggled?
3. The sermon stated, "Whatever we are looking at will fill our heart with desire for that thing." What are you consistently "looking at" in your life (**Matthew 6:22,23**)? How is this shaping your desires?

Section 2: The Word of God and Desire.

4. Read **Psalm 37:3-4**. What does it mean practically to "delight yourself in the Lord"? How does this differ from seeking entertainment or temporary pleasure?
5. The pastor said, "You and I cannot come up with a better desire for our lives than God, so just let Him decide for you!" How does this statement challenge or encourage you? What fears come up when you think about fully surrendering your desires to God?
6. Read John 15:7. Jesus says, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." What does it look like for God's Word to "abide" in you? How can you tell if His Word is truly dwelling in your heart versus just being information you know?

Section 3: Prayer and Desire.

7. David repeatedly "inquired of the Lord" before making decisions (**1 Samuel 23:2-4, 9-12; 30:7, 2 Samuel 2:1; 5:19,23**). What can we learn from David's example? How often do you seek God's direction before pursuing your desires?

8. The sermon mentioned that "God will give us instruction concerning our lives that is not directly addressed in the written Word." Share an experience when God gave you specific direction through prayer. How did you recognize His voice?

9. What's the difference between bringing our desires to God in prayer versus demanding that God fulfill what we want? How do we maintain a posture of surrender while also believing boldly?

Section 4: Radical Faith in Action

10. Read **Mark 11:24**. Jesus connects desire with faith and prayer. Why do you think all three elements are necessary for radical faith to operate?

11. The pastor asked, "Will we truly trust God?" What areas of your life reveal that you're still holding back trust from God? What would it look like to release those areas to Him this week?

12. **Hebrews 11:6** says God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." How does this truth challenge the idea that faith is just about getting to heaven? What rewards might God want to give you in this life?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Radical faith begins with godly desire – desires shaped by God's Word and prayer, not by circumstances or disappointments.
- Fellowship with God transforms our desires – as we delight in Him, He gives us the desires of our heart.

- God's Word is the foundation – our desires must align with Scripture for faith to operate powerfully.
- Prayer provides specific direction – like David, we should inquire of the Lord before pursuing our desires.
- Faith pleases God – without faith it is impossible to please Him; He is looking for faith when He returns (**Luke 18:8**).

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Personal Reflection Exercise - Take 10-15 minutes this week to complete this exercise:

1. List 3-5 major desires in your heart right now. Be honest.
2. For each desire, ask:
 - What does God's Word say about this?
 - Have I prayed about this and sought God's direction?
 - Is this desire rooted in God's will or my own preferences?
 - What would change if I fully surrendered this to God?
3. Choose one desire to focus on this week:
 - Find 2-3 Scripture passages related to it.
 - Commit to praying about it daily.
 - Journal what God speaks to you.

Group Challenge:

Become a "Cycle Breaker" – The sermon mentioned that each generation has the opportunity to be cycle breakers through faith. Identify one negative pattern (fear, unbelief, worry, lack, etc.) in your family line or personal history. Commit to breaking that cycle through radical faith. Share your commitment with one accountability partner from the group.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 37:4 (NKJV) "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- Ask God to align your desires with His Word.
- Pray for radical faith to rise in your life and in the group.
- Commit to delighting in the Lord this week through His Word and prayer.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Continue the "Radical Faith" series by staying engaged with God's Word daily. Be prepared to share how God has been shaping your desires this week.

Leader Tip: Create a loving environment where people can be honest about where they are but also are encouraged to grow in their faith. Celebrate testimonies of how God has rewarded faith in group members' lives.