

Radical Faith Part 9 – The Discipline of Faith

5-Day Devotional: Speaking Life Through Radical Faith

Day 1: The Discipline of Faith

Reading: James 1:2-4; Hebrews 10:23

Devotional: Faith is not a mystical force reserved for spiritual elites—it is a discipline available to every believer. Just as Jesus walked by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit, so can you. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you. When trials come, they present us with an opportunity to strengthen our faith. Count it all joy when you face difficulties, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience and endurance. Time is not your enemy; it is the refining fire that makes you perfect and complete, lacking nothing. Choose today to hold fast to your confession without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Day 2: Choosing Faith Over Fear

Reading: Mark 5:21-43

Devotional: Jairus faced every parent's nightmare—his daughter was dying. Even in his faith, a bad report came: "Your daughter is dead." Yet Jesus spoke powerful words: "Do not be afraid; only believe." This reveals a profound truth: you can choose your response to circumstances. Fear and faith cannot coexist; you must evict one to make room for the other. The enemy cannot hijack your belief system without your permission. When negative reports come—and they will—you have the authority to reject fear and embrace faith. Your circumstances do not dictate your spiritual reality. God's promises stand regardless of what you see. Today, declare: "I will not fear; I will only believe."

Day 3: Speaking God's Language

Reading: Romans 4:16-22; Genesis 1:1-3

Devotional: Abraham became the father of many nations not when Isaac was born, but when he believed God's promise and spoke it as truth. God calls those things that do not exist as though they did, and His power works through His words. Abraham maintained his confession

even when his body was "as good as dead." For years, he declared what God said, aligning his language with heaven's language. Your words matter. They either build faith or tear it down. Stop speaking about the problem and start declaring the promise. Let your confession match God's Word, not your circumstances. When you speak faith, you create an atmosphere where miracles can manifest. Hold fast to your confession without wavering.

Day 4: Shifting Hope from Natural to Supernatural

Reading: Romans 4:18-21 (multiple translations)

Devotional: "Against all odds, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise." This is the essence of radical faith—placing your hope in the supernatural when all-natural evidence screams impossibility. Abraham had no hope in the natural; he and Sarah were both past childbearing age. So, he shifted his confident expectation from what he could see to what God had promised. The natural world will always provide evidence against God's Word. Faith expects when nothing in the natural says it can happen. When everything looks hopeless, believe anyway. Decide to live not on the basis of what you see you cannot do, but on what God says you can do. Your breakthrough requires supernatural hope anchored in divine promises.

Day 5: Enduring to the End

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3; Galatians 6:9

Devotional: The passage of time between believing and receiving can be strengthening if we respond correctly. Every day you stand in faith, you become more perfect and complete. God has not failed you, and He will not start now. If disappointments have caused you to cage your faith in fear, know that God can heal those wounds and restore your trust. He is Jehovah Faithful, not Jehovah Grudges. He will pick up right where you left off. Do not grow weary in believing. The manifestation is coming. Your endurance is making you stronger, not weaker. Keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. Maintain your confession, guard your hope, and refuse to quit. Victory belongs to those who endure to the end.

Radical Faith Part 9 – Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Mark 5** (entire chapter referenced throughout)
2. **Mark 5:21-35** (Jairus and his daughter)
3. **Mark 5:25** (woman with issue of blood)
4. **Mark 5:35** (report of daughter's death)
5. **Mark 5:36** ("Do not be afraid, only believe")
6. **James 1:2** (count it all joy)
7. **James 1:3** (testing of faith produces patience)
8. **James 1:4** (let patience have its perfect work)
9. **Romans 4:16-22** (Abraham's faith)
10. **Romans 4:17** (God calls things that be not as though they were)
11. **Romans 4:18** (contrary to hope, in hope believed)
12. **Romans 4:19** (not being weak in faith)
13. **Hebrews 10:23** (hold fast the confession)
14. **Genesis 1** (God spoke creation into existence)
15. **Galatians** (Abraham as father of faith - general reference)
16. **Hebrews 11** (implied reference to "hall of fame of faith")

Alluded to or Paraphrased:

17. **John 2:1-11** (wedding at Cana - first miracle)
18. **Luke 3:21-22** / **Matthew 3:13-17** (baptism of Jesus, Holy Spirit descending)
19. **Philippians 2:7** (Jesus "emptied himself")
20. **Galatians 2:20** ("It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me")
21. **Exodus 19-20** (God appearing on Mount Sinai)

22. **Romans 8:11** (Spirit that raised Christ from the dead)
23. **1 John 5:4** (faith overcomes the world)
24. **Psalms 46:2** (though the earth be removed)
25. **Numbers 14** (Israelites complaining in wilderness)
26. **James 4:8** (draw near to God and He will draw near to you)

Suggested Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

- **Hebrews 11:1** - Definition of faith
 - **2 Corinthians 5:7** - Walk by faith, not by sight
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2** - Run with endurance, looking to Jesus
 - **Mark 11:22-24** - Have faith in God
 - **Matthew 17:20**- Faith like a mustard seed
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart
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Radical Faith Part 9 – Personal and Small Group Study Guide

Sermon Series: Radical Faith - Part 9

Text: Mark 5:21-43; Romans 4:16-21; James 1:2-4

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the discipline of faith and to identify areas where fear may have replaced trust.

Icebreaker Question

Share a time when you had to wait for something important. How did the waiting period affect you—did it strengthen or weaken your resolve?

Key Takeaways

1. Faith Requires Discipline and Steadfastness.

- Faith isn't a mystical force for special people—it operates by scriptural laws anyone can apply.
- We have the capacity to believe just like Jesus did.
- Jesus walked by faith as a man anointed by the Holy Spirit, showing us how to live.

2. Time Tests Our Trust but Doesn't Have to Weaken It.

- The passage of time was designed to *strengthen* faith, not weaken it.
- **James 1:2-4** teaches that trials produce patience, which makes us "perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
- Resistance from the enemy should be counted as joy because it's making us stronger.

3. We Choose What We Believe.

- Jesus told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe" (**Mark 5:36**).
- This shows we have the power to choose faith over fear.
- We are not enslaved to our circumstances or feelings.

4. Maintain Your Confession.

- Abraham called himself "father of many nations" before Isaac was born.
- Keep your language in line with God's language.
- Don't let the natural world talk you out of hope and faith.

5. Shift Your Hope from Natural to Supernatural.

- Abraham had no hope in the natural (he and Sarah were old and barren).
- He placed his confident expectation in God's promise instead.
- When all natural hope is lost but you still have hope, you're in faith.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The pastor said, "Jesus emptied himself" and operated by the Holy Spirit's anointing. How does this change your view of what's possible for you as a believer?
2. **Read James 1:2-4.** Why should we "count it all joy" when facing trials? What's the connection between testing and becoming "perfect and complete"?
3. In **Mark 5:36**, Jesus told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe." What does this tell us about our ability to choose our response to bad news?

Personal Reflection

4. The pastor mentioned that "people are still afraid to trust Him." What areas of your life might be in a "cage of fear" that feels safe but is still limiting you?
5. Have you experienced disappointment where you felt God didn't come through? How has that affected your faith in that specific area and is it fair to place the blame on God?
6. Abraham "contrary to hope, in hope believed" (**Romans 4:18**). Where in your life do you need to shift your hope from the natural to the supernatural?

Application

7. What "bad reports" are you currently facing that are challenging your faith? How can you apply the principle of "only believe" to your situation?
8. The pastor emphasized maintaining our confession—speaking what God says even when we don't see it yet. What promises from God do you need to keep declaring over your life?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Confession Discipline

Identify one promise from God's Word that applies to your current situation. Write it down and speak it aloud at least once daily, regardless of what circumstances look like.

Option 2: Joy in Testing

When you face a difficulty this week, immediately respond with "My patience is growing right now" and thank God that He is making you stronger in the midst of the trial (**James 1:2-4**).

Option 3: Hope Shift

Make two columns: "Natural Hope" and "Supernatural Hope." List what the natural says about your situation, then list what God's Word says. Intentionally focus on the supernatural column throughout the week.

Option 4: Fear Inventory

Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where fear or past disappointment has replaced trust. Journal what He shows you and ask Him for healing and renewed faith.

Memory Verse

Romans 4:20-21 - "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."

Group Prayer Focus**Declaration to pray together:**

"I am being made perfect and complete, lacking nothing because of God. My Father loves me. I choose to only believe. The passage of time is making me stronger, not weaker."

Before Next Week

- Read **Hebrews 11** (the "Hall of Fame of Faith")
- Journal about one area where you're choosing to exercise disciplined faith.
- Share with at least one person how God is strengthening your faith.

Closing Thought

Remember: You are not limited in your relationship with God except for how you see yourself versus how God sees you. You can walk in the same faith Jesus did because you have the same Holy Spirit living in you.