

THROUGH FAITH

CHAPTER SEVEN | *STARTING POINT*

STARTING POINT SERIES

- This entire series is built around a central premise; “What would it look like for you to find an adult starting point for your faith?”
- If you need to catch up online, please do so! We have put all the podcasts up there on theshoreline.org and we are in process of putting all of the videos up as well! So it's all free.
- Last week we had such a good time talking about this very personal topic called GRACE! And since this series is all about finding an adult starting point for faith— this week we will talk all about FAITH.

WIDE ANGLE ON FAITH

- Let's look at 3 general observations about faith/belief
 1. The ability to *believe* is the most powerful force available to humankind on earth.
 - Every great accomplishment on earth resulted from an idea...which led to words... to actions and other believers and the world changed.
 - Diseases have been prevented, education advanced, racial equality is advancing, because somebody believed it could be different.
 - Countries get started by beliefs, go to war over beliefs, and companies get started through belief. If you are looking for a great sales staff, choose the optimists over the IQ every time. If we believe it we will eventually see it! Belief is that powerful.

WIDE ANGLE ON FAITH

2. We all constantly look for evidence to support what we believe to be true. This is just the way it works.
- We do this with politics, business, school, religion, parenting... everything...
 - You could change your marriage by believing the best about your spouse! It's that powerful.

WIDE ANGLE ON FAITH

3. Belief is easy to maintain within a community of people with shared beliefs.

- The community allows certain information in and filters other information out. As soon as you begin to doubt, a handful of folks show up to talk you down.
- The wealthy share beliefs, so do the poor, so do religious groups, fraternities and sororities, businesses and denominations too!

BELIEF & RELIGION

- Let's apply this powerful force of belief to religion.
- Here are a few ideas of what it could be, and oftentimes is!
 - If you gather enough naive people together and tell them to “believe that” you’ve got a religion. Mohammad, Ghandi, or even Moses or Jesus can be quoted and people told to “just believe!”
 - What if religion is just a big Jedi mind trick? Don't ask questions. Just be moved by the force— believe.
- What if it is just pick any religion cause you will live longer and it is good for a person to believe in something bigger?

WHY BELIEVE IN JESUS?

- When Jesus died, those closest to him believed that Jesus was dead. Their faith in Him died as well. They no longer believed in Jesus because the whole thing rested on HIM! Not what he taught.
- In religion you can take the teachings of the teacher around after he died and start a following, but not with Jesus.
- The disciples and women all lost faith until something happened— they saw Jesus risen!

WHY BELIEVE IN JESUS?

- When we listen to the early messages in Acts they all sound the same! In a nutshell they say, “You killed Him. God raised Him! We’ve seen Him. Say your sorry!”
 - None of us is here believing simply because a book says something, or a great teacher named Jesus gave some great lessons about life.
 - We believe because something happened! The men and women who ran away, whose faith died with Jesus, came back into the very place it all happened.
 - They said, “We saw Him with our own eyes, and you can kill us for it if you must, but this isn’t just what we believe... this is what we saw! The resurrected Jesus Christ!”

YOU WILL BE SAVED

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved... “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced”... For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Taken from Romans 10:9-13