

FORWARD TO FREEDOM

WALKING BY FAITH

FAITH IS DEPENDENT UPON THE _____ OF _____

- 1 The only difference between Christian & non-Christian faith is the _____
- 2 We all _____ & _____ by faith
- 3 Once _____, faith is _____ to _____
- 4 Jesus Christ is the _____ of our faith (Hebrews 13:8)

HOW MUCH FAITH WE HAVE IS DETERMINED BY _____ WE _____ THE OBJECT

- 1 You can't _____ your faith (Romans 10:17)
- 2 Faith becomes _____ when _____ understanding
- 3 God will often put us in a position where we have to _____

FAITH IS AN _____

- 1 Faith as a _____ (2 Timothy 4:7)
- 2 Faith as a _____ (James 2:17-19)

YOUR OWN PERSONAL FAITH SYSTEM

- ▶ Basic building blocks of our personal creed: Success, Significance, Fulfillment, Satisfaction, Happiness, Fun, Security, Peace

Principle: Little _____ from the truth can lead to _____ results

- | ▶ If we see our goal as... | We will feel... |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Impossible | ▶ _____ |
| Blocked | ▶ _____ |
| Uncertain | ▶ _____ |

DISTINCTION BETWEEN A GODLY GOAL & A GODLY DESIRE

- ▶ Godly Goal: Any specific orientation that reflects God's purpose for our lives that is not dependent upon people, or circumstances that are beyond our ability or right to control
- ▶ Godly Desire: Any desired result that is dependent upon the cooperation of other people, the success of events, or favorable circumstances

SO WHERE DO CHRISTIANS FIND THEIR SELF-WORTH?

- 1 _____ (1 John 3:1,2)
- 2 _____ in _____ (Galatians 5:22,23; 1 Thess. 4:3; James 1:2-4; 2 Peter 1:3-11)

Prayer

Take time to pray with one another. Bring any feelings of anxiety or uncertainty before the Lord.

My Story

Are you more likely to act without thinking or think without acting? Explain.

Digging Deep

- 1) Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current ability to “live by faith and not by sight?” What struggles do you have with doing this?
- 2) Pastor Scott gave various examples of the things in this world we put our faith in every day (i.e., street lights, our eyes, cell phones, chairs, other people, the sunrise, etc.). Discuss why it’s sometimes easier to place our faith in these things rather than on God.
- 3) Have you ever lost your faith in another person? Were you ever able to trust that person again? If trust was rebuilt, how did it happen and how long did it take?

Digging Deeper

- 4) Read Hebrews 11:1-6. Why is faith so necessary to please God? How can we learn from the biblical heroes of the faith mentioned in these verses?
- 5) Read Isaiah 26:4 & Hebrews 13:8. How do we respond when some thing or someone we have depended upon changes or becomes unpredictable? What makes God so worthy as the ultimate object of our faith?

- 6) Read Romans 10:17. According to this verse, how do we grow our faith and confidence in God? Discuss some of the attributes of God that reassure you when your faith is shaky.

- 7) Read James 2:17-19. Why is it important that our behaviors and actions reflect the faith we place in God? Give an example of when your faith was put to the test? What happened?

Taking it Home

- 8) Time for a little honesty. There are occasions when we SAY that we trust God, but in actuality we are still placing our sense of security and/or identity in other things (i.e., money, job, accomplishments, marriage, friends, health, ability, etc.). Can you identify at least one thing in your life that you are tempted to trust more than God? Is there one area in which you seek prayer this week?
- 9) Read 2 Peter 1:3-11. Placing our faith in Christ is a transformative act. What will the fruit of our lives look like when we continue to strengthen our faith in God rather than ourselves or the things of this world? Take the time to list the potential growth areas found in this text. Note the PROMISES in verses 10-11.

Prayer

Pray with your group that we see our need to rely upon Christ and walk by faith in the Lord. Let’s rejoice that He is a worthy object of our faith as the Savior of our lives... and the world!

