



## **Defiant Faith- A Heart of Faith**

**July 23, 2023 - Pastor Jason Carter**

How intentional are you in your faith?

### **Defiant**

- "Full of, or showing a disposition to, challenge, resist or fight."

What does it mean to be defiant in faith? We stand in faith regardless of circumstance, and we oppose anything that comes against the Word of God, who God is, or anything that would pull us away from Him.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the Word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to the dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrows; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Faith is transformational. It will change your life if you allow it to.

**Mark 4:1-9** Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

We have one objective: to align ourselves to what God says and obey.

If you want to know what God says, what He thinks, what His will is, you **MUST** read the Bible.

Faith is not:

- sticking your head in the sand and not acknowledging difficulty and real situations.
- trying to convince God to do something.
- trying to pry God's hand.
- trying to manipulate God.
- always be accompanied by emotion. Faith is arriving at a conclusion or a decision and remaining steadfast.
- a perfect, fearless, unwavering state of bliss. Faith remains in spite of these feelings and thoughts.

***Faith*** begins where the will of God is ***known***.

-F.F. Bosworth

**Romans 10:10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

**Proverbs 4:23** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

**Heart:** the center, the core and the essence of life and belief

-What you believe in your heart (and what you **don't** believe in your heart) affects everything.

**Faith:** sustained effort in belief

-Faith is an active, engaging, ongoing work to align ourselves to God and what He says. It is a connection, a tether to what you believe. Faith trusts, believes, rests and looks to the Lord.

As you continue the lifelong pursuit of Christ, you will "level up." As your relationship with Him grows, your faith will grow.

**Saving faith-** Faith that God extended to man when He invited us to accept Christ.

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

It is a calm assurance. No matter where you go, you cannot escape God's spirit.

**Promise faith-** to believe God, to trust His character, to lean into His promises for every situation and circumstance.

**2 Peter 1:4** Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

We can use God's word in all areas of our lives. We can take the promises of God in scripture, pray through them, meditate on them, and believe God to carry them out.

**1 Corinthians 13:13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

Faith endures. It remains.

**Hebrews 12:2** Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Faith doesn't stop, quit or give up. It endures. Emotions fades, motivation wanes, inspiration vanishes, immature faith wants to give up, but God won't let us. He will teach us to endure.

**Hebrews 4:1** Therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

Faith rests. If you are continuously worrying about an area of life, that area needs to grow in faith.

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of things we do not see.

Faith is substance. It is knowing without seeing.

**Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Faith has expectation in God's character.

Whatever you consistently engage on or for, will show you what you truly believe.

George Mueller

- Mueller interceded for more than half a century for the salvation of a small group of men. He once wrote: *"In November, 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land or on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be. Eighteen months elapsed before the first of the five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others. Five years elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second and prayed on for the other three. Day by day I continued to pray for them, and six years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three and went on praying for the other two.*
- *These two remain unconverted. The man to whom God in the riches of His grace has given tens of thousands of answers to prayer in the self-same hour or day in which they were offered has been praying day by day for nearly thirty-six years for the conversion of these individuals, and yet they remain unconverted. But I hope in God, I pray on, and look yet for the answer. They are not converted yet, **but they will be.**"*
- Those two men, sons of a friend of Mueller's youth, were still unconverted when he died in 1897, after having prayed daily for their salvation for 52 years. His prayers were answered, however, when both those men came to faith in Christ a few years after the great intercessor's death.

Five men. Seed were sown for them to accept Christ for years. Tens, hundreds, even thousands of opportunities to accept Christ. Meuller shows faith by praying and believing **for years** on behalf of his friends.

You may be praying and believing for someone's salvation, and you didn't know it would take this long, but **DON'T GIVE UP! DON'T QUIT!** Keep planting the seeds! We put our faith in the One who outlasts all. We continue to ask, we continue to seek, we continue to knock. We continue to endure, we continue to believe. **This is defiant faith.**

**Mark 4:13** Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

In the faith journey, we don't get to stop. We don't get to quit. We don't get to make excuses. When life knocks you down, you get up again and again. You move forward, even if the steps are small. This is what faith does.

*-How intentional are you being in your faith? How are you living it out?*

*-What are you engaging the Lord on?*

*-Have you felt like giving up when it comes to unanswered prayers? How have you responded?*

*-In what areas have you quit or stop believing God for?*

You don't get to ***participate*** in the things of God without being ***transformed*** by the things of God, but your ***participation is required.***