

Faith

A Message from Shawn | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

Is your faith really in Jesus, or just in the idea of God?

I. What Faith Actually Is

- Faith means trusting and believing in someone or something, not just knowing facts about them.
- Proverbs 3:5-6: trust the Lord with all your heart, don't lean on your own understanding.
- Illustration: following directions to a place like Big South Fork. You trust them before you ever see the destination.

II. Faith Saves Us. Works Don't.

Key Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

- We were dead in sin, following our own desires. God saved us by grace, not because we earned it.
- Salvation is a gift, not a reward for good behavior.

Not About the Rules

- Illustration: dress codes and modesty are good, but if you think following them is what saves you, you've missed the point.
- Matthew 7:21-23: many will say "Lord, Lord" and still hear "I never knew you," because they trusted what they did instead of who Jesus is.
- We are God's handiwork, made new in Christ to do good works. The works come after salvation, not before it.

III. Faith Has to Be in Jesus, Not Just in God

- John 14:1: Jesus says don't let your heart be troubled, trust God and trust me too.
- Some people believe in God but don't believe in Jesus. That's not the same faith.
- John 20:29: Jesus tells Thomas that those who believe without seeing are blessed.

IV. Faith Is Trusting What We Cannot See

- Hebrews 11:1: faith is the substance of what we hope for, the evidence of what we haven't seen.
- Ephesians 6:10-17: the armor of God includes the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, and the shield of faith. We have peace with God through faith in Christ.

V. Faith Has to Be Spoken

- John 6:29: Jesus says the work God requires is to believe in the one he sent.

- Romans 10:17: faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- We're called to be messengers. Faith spreads because someone tells someone else.
- Shawn shares honestly that he spent 36 years not living this out, and now wants to redeem the time.

VI. Faith Looks Like Something

- Abraham: God said go, and he went, without knowing exactly where.
- The centurion: he told Jesus not to bother coming to his house, just to say the word, and it would be done.
- You can tell when someone loves you even if they never say it. Faith works the same way. It shows.

VII. Faith Starts Small and Grows

- Faith can start as small as a seed and grow.
- Jesus said those who endure through hard seasons and hold on to the word are the ones who bear fruit.

VIII. Faith and Being Made Right With God

Key Text: Romans 1:17

- Romans 1:17, echoing Habakkuk 2:4: the righteous will live by faith, not by the law.

IX. Faith Doesn't Rest on Human Wisdom

- 1 Corinthians 2:5: our faith should stand on the power of God, not human wisdom.
- Psalm 20:7: some trust in chariots, but we trust in the name of the Lord.

X. Will Faith Still Be Here?

- Luke 18:8: Jesus asks if the Son of Man will find faith on the earth when he returns.

XI. God Stays Faithful Even When We Don't

Key Text: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

- If we endure, we'll reign with him. If we deny him, he'll deny us. But if we're faithless, he stays faithful, because he can't deny who he is.
- Illustration: a gas station that stopped taking chip cards. Some things we rely on stop working. God's word doesn't.

Christ Made the Way

- Not in this life, not in what we own, not in anyone else.
 - Jesus is the only one who saves us and redeems us from the curse.
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FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Is your faith in the general idea of God, or specifically in Jesus?
2. Are you resting in what Christ already did, or still trying to earn your salvation?
3. Where is God asking you to move by faith right now, before you can see how it turns out?
4. Has your faith grown, or has it stayed the same size it started?
5. When something you count on fails you, where do you turn?

Scripture References: Proverbs 3:5-6 | Ephesians 2:1-10 | Matthew 7:21-23 | John 14:1 | John 20:29 | Hebrews 11:1 | Ephesians 6:10-17 | John 6:29 | Romans 10:17 | Genesis 12:1-4 | Matthew 8:5-13 / Luke 7:1-10 | Romans 1:17 | 1 Corinthians 2:5 | Psalm 20:7 | Luke 18:8 | 2 Timothy 2:11-13