# Thankful for Faith

Colossians 2:6-7

#### The Source of Faith

- Receiving = Believing, exercising saving faith
- Faith itself is a gracious gift from God

#### **Beginning and Sustaining**

- Having been <u>firmly rooted</u>
- And being built up
- We are becoming established

#### **Abounding in Thanksgiving**

- Praying persistently
- Intentionally <u>cultivating the habit</u>
- Being <u>vigilant</u>

### Beginning in faith is a gift from God

"Father, I thank you that I believe. If left to myself, I would never have trusted your Son at all."

### Continuing in faith is a gift from God

"Father, I thank you that I am still believing. If left to myself, I would have failed long ago. But I am still trusting. That is Your work, not mine."

## For Life Group Discussion

Colossians 2:6-7

- 1. Do you look forward to Thanksgiving? Why or why not? What makes the holiday great? What makes it difficult?.
- 2. Read Col 2:6, then Jn 1:11-13. How do the verses from John help us understand the word "receiving" in Colossians?
  - What is the relationship between receiving and believing?
  - What does it mean that Jesus gave us the "right" to become Children of God? And that we were born (again) by the will of God? How does Eph 2:8-9 help us understand?
- 3. What does the Bible means when it uses words like "faith" and "belief"? How are they often misunderstood, and what can you do to clarify? Read Heb 11:1 for help
- 4. Read Col 2:6-7. How do the 4 characteristics listed in v. 7 help us understand what it looks like to "walk in Him" (v 6)?
- 5. There were 3 practical steps offered to help us "dig the well of our gratitude deeper": Pray for it, cultivate it, and be vigilant in pursuit of it. How will you apply those steps this week?
- 6. Can you pray the two prayers at the end sincerely? Do you truly believe that your initial and continuing faith are a gift from God, and not your own doing? If not, what questions do you still have?

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Homework: Read Hebrews 2:10-18 in preparation for next Sunday