



Sermon Notes

October 29th 2023

Impact Tomorrow Today “Through My Faith” Message 2 of 6

Without faith it is impossible to please God - Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

If it is impossible to please God without faith, what is faith? Faith is:

1) Believing Without Seeing

Faith is visualizing the future in the present. It is seeing far out in advance, trusting where God is leading us, and living with the assurance that He is with us. You may have heard the term ‘I’ll believe it when I see it.’ Have you ever thought; ‘I’m going to get out of debt? I’ll believe it when I see it!’ Sometimes in our faith journey we say; ‘Lord, You say You’re going to provide for me if I commit to giving to You? I’ll believe it when I see it!’ But God says, ‘you’ve got it all backwards. You have to believe it in order to see it!’ That’s called faith. That’s called trust.

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see
- Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

2) Obeying Without Understanding

Faith is obeying, even when we don’t understand it. Faith is obeying, even when it doesn’t make any sense. Faith is obeying when God calls you to do something that has never happened before. Faith always involves risk. Sometimes we want a guarantee of success before we obey God. We say, ‘ok, God. I’ll tithe. I’ll give; once You guarantee that I will have enough left over for myself. But that doesn’t require any faith. God wants us to believe when we don’t see and understand it all.

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before - Hebrews 11:7 (NLT)

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith - Hebrews 11:8-9 (NLT)



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3) Persisting Even When I Don’t Feel Like Persisting

This is counter to what our culture tells us today. Culture tells us to do everything based on our feelings. But sometimes, we end up being manipulated by our feelings. The godly man or woman becomes persistent not by accident, but because they choose to do the things they need to do, and develop the habits that develop their spiritual life whether they feel like it or not. Faith is doing the right thing, even when you’re tired, even when you’re moody, even when you don’t want to. How do we develop that kind of persistence? Keep your eyes on God, not on the circumstance you are facing. If you focus on your circumstance, you will be overwhelmed. If you focus on God, you will be at rest.

It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the One who is invisible - Hebrews 11:27 (NLT)

4) Trusting When I Don’t Get What I’m Asking For

Sometimes we try to make God out to be like a vending machine. We pop in a prayer like a quarter, expecting God to spit out what we want. But God is not a vending machine. Vending machines will give you things that you don’t need. Vending machines will give you things that are bad for you. But God will never give you something that’s bad for you. God hears and answers every prayer we pray. But, God doesn’t always answer the way we want Him to. Sometimes when we pray, God says ‘yes.’ Sometimes when we pray God says, ‘not yet.’ Sometimes God says, ‘I’ve got a *better* idea. I’ve got something *different* planned for you.’ Living by faith does not exempt us from problems. Sometimes we pray for God to remove a problem, and instead He keeps the problem there and then gives us the strength to go through it, and we end up being stronger. It’s easy to trust God when things are going great. It’s easy to trust when we have a surplus. But giving to God in our times of need is an act of faith, even if we don’t receive what we ask for.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised
- Hebrews 11:39 (NIV)