

Noticeable Faith

INTRO:

—Share Santa Claus example: —Kids want to visit him at the mall, write the list and mail it, set out cookies, and stay up to catch him.

—Share stories of faith in gospels: Mt. 8 “Centurion”—servant is paralyzed—say the word and he’ll be healed... Jesus *heard* their faith. Mt. 9 “friends bring a paralytic”—Jesus *saw* their faith. **Faith can be witnessed. Belief can be seen in action.**

—**Faithfulness reveals itself in action by how we live our lives!** Of course there are varying degrees, as we’re all in different stages of growth in Christlikeness: the evidence of one’s faith grows in proportion to one’s trust in Christ; therefore as we mature, it should be recognizable that our loyalties or allegiances lie in Christ!

—Belief is not simply agreeing that something is true in reality, but rather **trusting your life on that belief to the point it impacts your decisions and response to life.**

—Let’s look at what faith does when someone trusts in that faith...

MOVEMENT 1:

—**Hebrews 11:17-19** *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, “In Isaac your descendants shall be called.” 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.* —God’s Promises to Abraham: **Genesis 17:6-8** *I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. 7 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”*

—Promises of Covenant: 1) Father of many nations. 2) Covenant between Abraham and his seed (Christ). 3) Everlasting covenant. 4) Promise of Land.

—**Hebrews 11:20-22** *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.* (Gen. 50:24-25). —He wanted his bones brought back to Canaan, because He believed God would return His people to the promised land. —Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph believed in the promises of God and it led them to take extraordinary and hopeful actions that would not have made sense otherwise.

—One of the most hopeful promises we have in Christ, in whom **ALL PROMISES ARE YES AND AMEN** (2 Cor. 1:20) is this: —**Rom. 8:11:** *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* It’s all about resurrection! —**1 Cor. 15:14:** *“Without the resurrection our faith is futile.”* —We live as though this isn’t it, but that the best is yet to come. —**When we have resurrection and glorification to look forward to in the future, you walk proudly in the midst of what looks like temporary defeat or limitations.**

—Share: Oregon vs Ohio State football game: Fall of 2024 Ducks vs Ohio State buckeyes; Ducks won, but my dad, a Buckeye fan, showed faith as he walked out of the stadium shouting to the Ohio State fans, “They won the battle, but we will win the war!” That faithfulness in his team led him to hopeful living (Ohio State 2025 Championship).

—Live in a hopeful way...not as losers but as conquerors, and *we are more than conquerors!* (**Rom. 8:33-39**)—hold your head high. Stand tall as the sons and daughters of God who are lights for the whole world! Don’t shrink back in fear (Heb. 10:39). —**Faith in the promises of Christ produces hopeful living.**

MOVEMENT 2:

—**Heb. 11:23-28** *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with*

the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. —Faith in Christ is in opposition to the ways of the world, and therefore faith in Christ can cause tension, confrontation, and tribulation. —In fact, *IF* there is never tension, confrontation, or tribulation *because* of your faith, how bright is your lamp burning, because the darkness hates the light (Jn. 3:19-20)? —Whether it was Moses' parents, rejecting the title of "Pharaoh's daughter," rejecting the wealth of Egypt, or not being thrown off course by the King's anger, Moses' faith carried him forward despite the opposition. **Life is so dark at times that only faith in Christ can truly and consistently carry a person through the most difficult trials.**

—Life has a way of shaking a person to his core, and that shaking will ultimately reveal the faith of a person...where their true foundation stands. —Share about James Vanderbeek: actor—value, father/husband value, diagnosed with cancer robbed him from being the dad/husband... where does value and reason to live come from... loved by God.

—**John 16:33:** *"In this world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world."* —**Acts 14:22:** *"We enter the Kingdom of God through Tribulation"* —**Romans 12:12:** *"Rejoice in hope and be patient in affliction, be constant in prayer"* —**This life is a serious thing, so take your faith seriously!** Perseverance of faithfulness despite tribulation is a great testimony to Christ. —**Faith in the promises of Christ perseveres despite confrontation and tribulation.**

MOVEMENT 3:

—Heb. 11:29-31: *By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.* —The faith of these people led them to do things that made absolutely no sense by worldly standards. First, Escape Egypt and Pharaoh's army—put yourself in a dead end situation. Second, take over a large fortified city—walk around it for seven days. —Now, it wasn't the faith of the people who caused these things to happen. **Hab. 2:4** *the righteous shall live by his faith.* A more accurate translation in the Septuagint reads, *The righteous shall live by My faith.* —It is only by God seas are parted, when there seems to be no way out! It's only by God that fortified cities topple when you walk around them. —**It's only by God that there is a way to life when chaos and condemnation seem to block you in.** —For the Christian who has put faith in Christ, we must remember *"...we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls"* (Heb. 10:39). **Rom. 8:1** *"There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus."* —**Faith in the promises of Christ provides life and secures us from condemnation and corruption.**

CONCLUSION:

—The promises to Abraham were promises that the Lord asked him to treasure and observe in an ongoing way, and the day the Lord asked him to offer his only son, Abraham showed devotion and surrender. His life showed his faithfulness as He offered His son...and yet the Lord stepped in and provided a lamb.

—We, too, under a better covenant of Christ are to show our devotion and surrender to God, by offering ourselves, as Christ offered himself —**Rom. 12:1** *By the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* This is faithful living!!!

—How we talk becomes different. How we spend money is different. How we respond to trials is different. How we organize and prioritize our lives is different. How we love is different. —****Faith in God is to be noticeable, the question becomes, do those searching for faith notice you!？****