

Sunday, October 17, 2021 Friends, Fortitude, and Faith Rev. Jasmine Mitchell

OVERVIEW

This October we are beginning a new teaching series called "Building Blocks Of Faith: Walk In It!" As we enter the fourth quarter of the year we must stay focused, fight distractions, and understand the building blocks of faith. This new teaching series will give us the fuel to finish this year strong amidst all the things that have transpired in the past nine months.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED Daniel 3:12-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

It is not about the number of friends that you have, but the type of friends. Quality over quantity. We have a history with God. I believe that He will do what He said He would do because we are connected. We lack assurance with God because we are not connected to God. We have not let who God is penetrate our hearts to inform who we are. Whose I am should inform whom I am. My actions will show what I believe and how relate to family, friends, and God. What I act out is in direct correlation to what I believe. When you stand for God, you will always stand out. Having knowledge of God is not having faith in God. We must believe in God. The devil will temp to destroy your faith. God will test to develop your faith. A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted. A faith that can't be tested folds easily. A faith that can't be tested isn't faith at all.

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear God, please continue to help us to increase our faith. As our faith increases, we know that we can be delivered from fear. Surround us with friends who will lift us up, pray for us, hold us accountable, and walk alongside us in our faith journey. When the pressure is on us, give us the courage, strength, bravery, and firmness in our faith to stand boldly on your word. Increase our faith just like You did for the Hebrew Boys when facing the fire. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As we continue to learn about the Building Blocks of Faith, has your faith increased? As we go throughout the fourth quarter of the year, what would it take to have faith like the Hebrew Boys (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)? They trusted and believed in God and persisted together. Their friendship was so connected to God that they stood together. Compromise would have poisoned their conviction and the very things they stood for.