

FAITH FILLED LIVING

“No More Hedging Your Bets”

Eg 50cents or a \$1.00 each way – to win or just place! – this process really means I am not 100% confident of the outcome so I am covering my back in case of a loss.

Eg Cortez – when he reached the new world smashed & burned all the boats on the beach leaving his men no way to return. Consequently his men were well motivated as there was no back up plan!

One foot in the world & one foot in the kingdom trusting God!! It just doesn't work James says the person who doubts will not receive anything from God!

Faith steps out into the unknown to receive something that has not yet materialized in this world, but you are 100% convinced it is already a reality in another realm. The Realm of the Spirit!!

- *Your Marriage* – might be struggling in this world, but by faith you can reach into another place & take hold of the kind of marriage God has in mind.
- *Health* – you might be struggling with a health issue in this world, but by faith you reach into another place & take hold of the health & healing that is already yours. (*refuse Doctors help or stop medication*)
- *Poor* – you might feel like you've got nothing in this world, but by faith you can reach into another place & take hold of what are the true riches we all need in life. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self control – the fruit of the spirit.
- *Identity* – you might be struggling to understand why I am on this earth, why am I alive, but by faith you can reach into another place & step into who you are in Christ & his plan & purpose for your life!

Thesis Statement: I believe every human being is designed to live by faith, and it is only when living by faith that we can find complete fulfillment in this life. Fulfillment in knowing that our life is really counting & making a difference, and fulfillment in knowing we are pleasing our creator.

SO WHAT IS FAITH: *Heb 11:1* – says now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

Some translations say faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

So what can we learn from this – *faith is conduit* by which the reality in the heavenlies, in the realm of the spirit become manifest in this world.

So how do we *tap into this conduit* in order to receive from God? The scriptures say in Faith comes by hearing & hearing of the Word of God.

Eg: Devotions: You must read the scriptures, allow the Word of God to come speak to you... like we heard at LifeChurch.TV last week when we started the series JONAH, he heard the Word & decided to Run instead of obey God. Come along tonight & bring a friend. You must listen to what God is saying to you from the scriptures, write the vision down so it can become the focus of your prayer times. The more you pray the scriptures the more you are tapping into what is the true reality.

Eg Old Testament – that had the wonder thing called the tabernacle that Moses had to build. It had to be built exactly to the pattern he had been shown from the heavenlies. So the question begs to be asked which is the more real??

SO HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

V 3 by faith the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what is visible.

EG Inventors – see something that is not & bring it into this world. In order for it to be brought forth in this world it already exists in the mind of God on another plane. That is actually part of how we are created, we are created in the image of God to partner with him to bring his reality to this world.

FAITH FILLED LIVING

“No More Hedging Your Bets”

Whole Chapter *Heb 11* has a list of what people accomplished by faith, those who refused to be dictated to by the limitations of this natural world.

Abraham – child late in life & became a great nation and the father of all nations,

Noah – built an Ark to save his family,

Daniel – was saved from the lions,

Enoch - he walked with God & suddenly he was no more, God just decided I like this guy I'm taking him home. I wonder how the family felt about that? Waking up & your boy is gone? No missing persons beaurio to inform.

Heb 11:6 says with out faith it is impossible to please God. He expects us to live from a position of faith in him, he expects us to draw our life force from Him.

Parents: Natural & Spiritual Fathers & Mothers – Faith is actually something you can pass on as a legacy to the next generation.

1 Tim 1: 5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am not persuaded, now lives in you also.

Faith can be developed & then handed on to the next generation. It is actually the greatest gift you as a parent or a spiritual mother & father can give. **Eg** Anita – have a lot of money but we shared what we had, what we did impart to her was our faith to trust what God says over what this world says.

I will show you why this is so important to get it right!! Rom 11:20

The greatest thing you can give to your kids is faith filled living, everything else they can work out with God for themselves, but if they miss out of this – they can end up loosing it all!!

SO HOW IS FAITH DEVELOPED IN OUR LIVES?

By Choice – it's an act of your will to choose to believe & Obey what God says, rather that what the world says!!

The scriptures say:

By his stripes I am healed past tense, so by faith I live from that promise rather than from what the circumstances say. I desire above all else that you prosper and be in health even as you soul prospers.

Eph 1 – God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.... I AM RICH – so I will not store up treasure on earth where thieves can steal, I will store it up in heaven. So I will be generous with all I have in this life.

Return the tithe & an offering to God 10% - I know I should do it cheerfully, but I just don't want to. Every time you know what the scriptures say you should do & you refuse to do it. You are no longer living by faith, but according to the pattern of this world.

So obedience to the Word of God expands faith. Choose to obey God & the scriptures!

Then develop a daring attitude!! – Be like Peter and gets yourself out of your comfort zone and onto the water just to see what God does. I am not talking about stupidity, I am talking about when you get that nudge from God to step out, then step out.

Share your faith – with someone & invite them to LifeChurch or Church Online,

Share you wealth & blessing with someone less fortunate,

Give extravagantly – to campus development!! Our whole campus is going to be reinvented during the course of this year to create brand for multiple campuses.. Maybe God would have you step out onto the water to see that become a reality.

FAITH FILLED LIVING

“No More Hedging Your Bets”

SO HOW DO WE DO IT?

We need to go counter culture! We need to have our eyes fixed on Jesus the author & finisher of our faith. We need to return back to God with all our hearts & not just a part. **Eg** - what is the first thing you do when you have a headache or don't feel well? Neurophen, or the Doctors etc

Our first port of call should be our God. **Eg** – Jonce- lung problem, Ben neck Injury in the doorway Monica!

God is our deliverer, we need to learn to cry out to him again. We need to see him intervene in our circumstances.

We need to develop a *culture* where as soon as we hear about something we just every so naturally say lets just take that to our heavenly Father in prayer.

Spiritual Direction: Some of us need to right now Repent & ask God for forgiveness. We are not living by faith at all, not in our relationship with him & each other. We are just playing it safe, we are not out on the faith edge with our finances as we stretch to be greater & greater conduits of kingdom generosity. We not staying up a night scheming of how we can be more effective in reaching lost people for Christ.

Take a moment & do business with God! – some of us have let go of the dream settling for spiritual mediocrity but today were saying no more.

Next we need to make ourselves accountable for this series to develop a new habit pattern, a kingdom habit pattern.

1. I will resolve to not think, speak or act negatively in anyway about anyone or anything, (only words of life & faith edify others around us)

2. I will resolve to spend more quality time with my heavenly Father in His Word so he can again teach me how to walk by faith & not by sight, (daily devotions & journaling)

I will resolve to do whatever God asks me to do without questioning. I will simply obey whatever he requires.

Start Tithing or up my tithe because 10% is no longer faith , or he may ask you to give an offering to Campus Development & you'll do it, He might ask you to make contact with someone who is far from God for the express purpose of leading them back into a relationship with Christ, Believe him that love can flourish again within your marriage, Step out in faith & start serving in an area that maybe you don't know a whole lot about. It could be serving Youth, Children, Leading a Life Group or being part of First Impression's our host team!! (Now that's how you really grow, as you learn new things alongside meeting new people)

No more hedging your bets, now more keeping yourself out of commitment & off the field in case a better option comes along. There is no better option; there is God's kingdom & his invitation for us to get in the game!

Friends – It's time to engage in Faith Filled Living again. It's time to start being the supernatural people of God, shining as light in the darkness.

Let me make it real easy for you – JUST DO WHAT GOD ASKS YOU TO DO, nothing more & nothing less.

Scriptures say that Jesus - only did what his father asked him to do & say.

Devotions this week – Balaam (look at what was written about him) *Num 24*

One whose eyes see clearly.

One who hears the words of God.

One who sees a vision for the almighty.

One who has knowledge from the most high.

One who falls prostrate and whose eyes are opened.

V13 I could not do anything of my own accord, good or bad, to go beyond the command of the Lord. And I must say only what the Lord says!!

Its time for the people of God to arise in faith filled living so that the so the world has a light pointing them in the right direction.

Friends we are the called out ones, and we are called out to display God nature & power to the world around us.

James 2:26 Faith without works is dead!