

**Introduction:**

- The Faith of a child
- When children walk in faith the devil gets extremely nervous! The reasons: they have a whole life time to do damage to darkness. They have potential to grow great faith. They have the power, testimony and desire to let God shine in their lives.
- Three things we will look at this morning: One, I Got Faith. Two, I Do Great Things! Three, God Gets All the Glory!

**I. I Got Faith!**

- A. A Promise to Children: *"... I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike."* (Joel 2:28-29, NLT)
1. Parents we must understand this is a promise of wisdom for our children. Parents, we play a big part in, if our children will walk in faith or not. What would your child's life look like if you labored as hard to bring understanding of the things of God as you do extra curricular activities?
  2. Isaiah also said something similar. *"... And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children."* (Isaiah 44:3, NLT) God is trying to help us as parents!
  3. Wisdom says, *"Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you."* (Proverbs 1:23, NKJV) God is for our children! He wants this to happen. Do we want it as bad as He does? Wisdom is His Spirit coming to our kids in person and with the Word! Faith begins here, continues here, and dominates here.
- B. Children, wisdom begins with the decision to obey Godly instruction. Romans 10:17 says, *"So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."* Godly instruction/the Word comes from God, from your parents, from me! Listen for wisdom.
1. Wisdom is doing. It is "walking out" good deeds towards God, others and yourself. It is the power to do what is right. It is the practical application of knowledge and understanding. Wisdom is the word of God in action.
  2. Children have a head start when it comes to faith. Things adults can learn from children:
    - a) *"...I tell you the truth, unless you... become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven."* (Matthew 18:3, NLT) Trusting.
    - b) *"But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.""* (Matthew 19:14, NLT) Kingdom access.
    - c) *"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. ...Then Jesus took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them."* (Mark 10:13-16, NLT) Jesus likes children!
- C. I Got Faith!
1. I want this to be the shout of all our children! It should not surprise us that children can walk in powerful faith. So often kids believe that church is for grown ups. NO! When you believe, you are the church! We come to this building to grow in faith. There are things that happen

here to feed our faith. From what we have seen so far is that children are made to be faith walkers!

2. Biblical examples of children of faith.
  - a) Joseph - this kids with colorful clothes. God spoke to him in dreams! He believed it to be God.
    - (1) Sold into slavery he never became bitter.
    - (2) He held on to what he learned at home. He stayed a believer in God even though he was not surrounded by family and friends that believed like him. What did he have? He had his own faith.
    - (3) He overcame disappointments: sold as a slave by his brothers. Lied about from Potifers wife. Forgotten in a dungeon. Yet still continued to guard his heart. How? He had faith!
  - b) Isaac - Abrahams son. He was about sacrificed by his dad. What did Isaac learn from his dad? Faith!
    - (1) He learned that people can hear God accurately.
    - (2) He learned from His father that God can be totally trusted.
    - (3) He learned also from this experience that God will provide.
    - (4) What did Isaac learn from Abraham? Faith!
  - c) Moses - (See Heb 11:23-28) was rescued by Pharaohs daughter. Yet raised by his mother.
    - (1) His parents were not afraid to disobey the Kings command. Courage.
    - (2) He chose to identify with the people of Israel, his people, than with Egypt.
    - (3) He chose suffering rather than riches.
    - (4) He commanded Israel to keep the passover and put blood over their doorposts.
    - (5) How did he do all this? By faith! It started as a boy!
  - d) Samuel - some people say that Samuel would have been 3-4 years old when his mother took him to serve Eli in the House of God. It was here that he learned about God and the ways of God. At about 12-13 years of age he hears God's voice.
    - (1) He became a prophet that it was written of that not one of his words fell to the ground.
    - (2) He was feared by the people because of the way that God worked through him.
  - e) David - was a shepherd boy. They say he was anointed king at around 10-15 years of age. He actually became King at age 30. But...he killed Goliath at around 16 years of age.
    - (1) By then he had already killed a lion and a bear while rescuing a lamb from them.
    - (2) He was skilled on the harp and had written many worship songs.
    - (3) How did he do all that? By faith!
  - f) Jesus and John the Baptist both grew in faith, provided by their parents.
  - g) Jairus daughter died while Jesus was in route to her house.
  - h) The young boy that provide lunch for Jesus to work a miracle.
    - (1) He gave up his lunch. Faith of a child.
    - (2) He trust Jesus.
    - (3) What did he learn through this miracle? Some one shout, "I GOT FAITH!!!"

3. Children, there is no reason that you should not have great faith. If you have great faith, you will do great things!

## II. I Do Great Things!

- A. We serve a God who has done great things! *Creation, restoration, salvation, miracles, etc.*
  1. Listen to what Jesus says, *“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”* (John 14:12, NLT) The requirement is to believe.
  2. Listen to this mountain shaking scripture: *“Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.”* (Mark 11:22-24, NLT)
- B. With man it is impossible but not with God.
  1. *“Jesus looked at them intently and said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.’”* (Matthew 19:26, NLT) Jesus is repeated as having said this in Mark and Luke.
    - a) possible - dynamai, Gr. meaning to be able. God’s power works through our weakness.
    - b) Impossible is just the opposite. adynamai - Gr. to not be able.
    - c) With God - “I DO GREAT THINGS!!!”
  2. All things are possible!
    - a) *“He replied, ‘What is impossible for people is possible with God.’”* (Luke 18:27, NLT)
    - b) *“For the word of God will never fail.”* (Luke 1:37, NLT)
  3. Joseph, Samuel, David all did great things!
- C. How did they do it?
  1. They knew God. They did not just know about God.
  2. They trusted God. When they trusted in themselves things went wrong.
  3. They submitted to the process of growing in faith.
  4. When you do that, God gets the glory!

## III. God Gets The Glory!

- A. Acts of God bring Him praise!
  1. When the people saw what Moses did in parting the Red Sea, they sang to God.
  2. Judges 16:24, when the people saw what Samson did they praised God.
  3. Joseph delivered Egypt from famine. Pharaoh honored Josephs God and Joseph.
  4. David worship God so deeply that he set up worship that would go one day and night and night and day. Never stopping. His victories brought God honor.
- B. Your life of faith will bring God honor too!

1. Behave so that God gets the glory. Live so that people see your life and glorify God.
2. Purpose to do good things with your life. Help others. Stand up for others. Help the elderly.
3. Learn what it means to be supernatural and step into it as often as you can. Dare to do something for God that only be done if He shows up!

#### IV. Helping Children Believe (Tom Shultz - Faith and Children).

- A. Focus on understanding and not on facts. Many parents attempt to impart faith through the transfer of facts. That probably will not work unless children understand the the meaning of the facts. Concentrate on helping kids really understand God's Word. Otherwise you are raising a 'Jeopardy' champion.
- B. Let them experience the message. We remember and are affected by what we vividly experience. Ie. When Jesus got down on His knees and washed the disciples feet, you can bet they never forgot that. IE. On many occasions when our kids wanted something we encouraged them to bless others or sow into others lives. Then they would believe God for what they wanted.
- C. Use 'teachable moments'. Life is full of emotionally packed moments...fear, sadness, anger, joy, wonder. Some parents are so protective they do not let their children experience working through life issues. Ie. Joshua was afraid - "It's just a devil, son. Go rebuke it." Caleb was angry at his brother who was going to be punished. I let him decide the penalty. He thought about it and decide to go lite because the next time Josh may decide.
- D. Reinforce for long term retention. "If a child experiences information once, 10% is retained after 30 days. Six times repeated or experienced in 30 leads to 90% retention." James Dobson.
- E. Don't bribe children. "Learn this get that." "Do this get that." It actually distracts from the message and understanding. Jesus never said, "Feed my sheep and you Hersey bar." "Don't covet and you will get your own GI Joe"
- F. Make learning fun. Learn to laugh at yourself. Laughter is medicine to the bones. There is joy in learning even in the difficult things of life.

#### Parents: Children are mentioned all through the Bible. God cares about them! Dinner Quiz:

God tested this boy's father when he was asked to sacrifice his son. Gen. 21:8-21

This Boy was born holding on to his twin brothers heel. Gen. 25:19-28

This boy had a colorful coat that made his brothers jealous. Gen. 25:19-28

This young girl watched her brother be rescued by a princess. Exodus 2:1-10

This Boy grew up in the palace of Pharaoh. Exodus 2:1-10

This Boy heard God's voice calling him. 1Samuel 3 This boy killed a giant? 1 Samuel 17

What were the names of Adam and Eve's three children listed in scripture? Gen. 4:1-25

This boy was only seven when he became king. 2 Kings 11:12-21

This Boy grew up to be the Savior of the world. Matt. 1:18-25

This Girl was told by an angel that she would have a baby boy. Luke 1:26-38

These children were given meaningful names by their father. Hosea 1:4-9; 2:23

This boy's mother was Elizabeth and he prepared the way for Jesus. Luke 1:5-17