

Introduction:

- Last Wednesday I shared a message on Faith Loves An Adventure: World Changing Faith! Some things to keep in mind as we go deeper in faith today:
 - Webster defines Adventure - as a venture involving danger or risk. Faith loves that! In fact, you would be hard pressed to find faith in the Bible that is absent of danger or risk.
 - Faith is an experience that seemingly may 'set one' up for loss or harm **IF** God does not come through.
 - But when you have faith the **if** becomes non existent as you step out and trust God.
- Faith loves an adventure because it lives to see how God is going to work and get the glory!
- *"Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen."* (Hebrews 11:1, TPT)

I. What is The Foundation of Faith?

- A. What we want to do is to learn how to increase our faith and how to enlarge our faith.
 1. We have already established that we have a measure of faith. Romans 12:3
Everyone has been given at the least a measure of faith by which to get born again. It functions as a starting point when you are born again.
 2. We have already established that faith comes by hearing the message of Christ. Romans 10:17.
 3. We have already established you can have different levels of faith—little faith, weak faith, growing faith and great faith. So the choice is ours and how much faith we desire to have.
 4. To be encouraged: The centurion and the Syro-Phoenician did not go to school to learn faith. They understood authority and the mercy of God. They knew God and His ways. Because of those two things Jesus declared that they had great faith!
 5. So if we are ignorant about faith we can't grow it, we cant work with it, and we can't produce with it.
- B. **The first thing** we must realize that knowledge of God is the foundation on which faith rests. *"So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."* (Romans 10:17, NLT) Note to self: Hearing about Christ. Hearing about God.
 1. *****You have to know there is a God in order to have faith.*****
 2. This is why I said, that the knowledge of God is the foundation on which faith rests. Both the centurion and the Syro-Phoenician understood this. The more you know of God the more and the greater your faith will be. I am speaking of a living knowledge not just facts about God. A living knowledge produces a living faith.

3. Lester Sumrall said of Smith Wigglesworth and Howard Carter, great men of faith that Lester travelled with, "They were both men of incredible knowledge of God. Their faith was in relationship with their knowledge of God."
 4. Our faith must rest upon something alive and real...the knowledge of God.
 5. This foundation of faith is seen in people of the Bible like Abraham who walked with God. He had a very close relationship with God. (From Sunday: Jesus focused on His relationship with the Father and Love was the motivation of that focus. If you enter into an intimate relationship with God faith will spring up within you as a living expression.
- C. **Secondly, God rewards** those that diligently seek Him.
1. *"Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.""* (Matthew 8:2, NLT)
 - a) The leper had faith that Jesus had the power to heal but He wasn't sure Jesus wanted to heal him.
 - b) Jesus said, "I am willing." The man received this new knowledge of God and his faith to be healed was released. You won't receive from God until you know Him as the God who is willing to heal.
 - c) In Mt 7:7 Jesus said, *"Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7, AMP) This is movement! It is the picture of a person going after God!
 2. Knowing God as a foundation for your faith and seeking Him because you know He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6) IE. The legends of faith in Hebrews 11 could not be shaken because they had a knowledge of God.
 - a) If God is our foundation, and we are diligent to seek Him, what can stop us.
 - b) Be planted on the Rock of Christ. Dream Big. And never stop seeking Him.

II. The Structure Of Faith

- A. *"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see."* (Hebrews 11:1, NLT) Substance and evidence are what make faith tangible. I find it interesting that the Hebrew writer uses substance and evidence to describe something that is, in some ways, mysterious and intangible. Faith is the substance...it is weighable, measurable, you can handle it.
1. Faith is the substance, the reality. Greek hypostasis – "the proof of things one cannot see. Similarly, *hypóstasis* is the "reality" of the things hoped for, which have a transcendent quality." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 1239). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

- a) *"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven."* (Hebrews 1:3, NLT)
 - b) 'Expresses' is the Greek word hypostasis. Heb 1:3 the Son is the Evidence of the Father.
2. Faith is the evidence. Evidence is something you know...known to be fact.
- a) Faith is the evidence of things not seen. It is the proof or convincing thing. It is the persuasive thing.
 - b) IE. It is not something 'out there' that cannot be known.
 - c) "Faith is the divinely given conviction of things unseen and is thus the assurance of what is hoped for." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 222). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
- B. Gift of faith vs. growing in faith.
1. Gift of faith is supernaturally given by God.
 - a) Could be in a time of duress, trouble, I NEED IT NOW!
 - b) Gift of faith can be grown just like any other gift. Heb 5:14 "through reason of use" it become stronger. You learn to recognize the gift in operation.
 2. Growing in faith happens over time.
 - a) Growing in faith happens over time as we get to know God.
 - b) Growing in faith happens over time as we devour the word.
 - c) Growing in faith happens over time as we operate in faith.
- C. Faith is giving God what He requires of you.
1. Abel gave a better sacrifice. Simple, he gave his best.
 2. All the faith legends of Hebrews 11 gave something. There was risk involved as well as reward. The interesting thing is that most of those who are giving to God would not see themselves as great men of faith.
 3. Giving is why the tithe and offering are beginning places of faith in our walk with God. God actually says in Malachi 3, test me in this.

Conclusion:

- So what did we learn tonight?
 - Faith is build on the foundation of our knowledge of God.
 - God rewards those who diligently seek Him (faith in action).
 - Faith is substance/reality and evidence. It is proof, the persuasive things that what is hoped for is for sure!
- Where is your faith tonight?
- What has God been asking you to give, give up, to take a risk on?