

**Introduction:**

- “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1, ESV) Faith is! Not faith was or will be. Faith is.
- We have been looking at FAITH as an adventure.
  - Webster defines Adventure - as a venture/activity 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.
  - We are going to look at ‘faith as a choice’ this evening.
- Grandma used to say, “Life is made of choices...remove your shoes or scrub the floor.”
- It is amazing how powerful our choices are and how much those choices affect our lives. One the most important choices people make is to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- In Hebrews we find a man who made many choices in life. By his choices he eventually was given a place in the Famous Faith chapter of Hebrews 11. (Hebrews 11:23-28)
- If you are going to grow in faith you have to understand that the faith life is choice. Growing in faith is a choice and so is not growing in faith.

**I. The Faith Life Begins With A Choice**

- A. Faith begins with a choice. You choose to believe. You choose to walk in faith.
  1. Faith is not a feeling you get and then you believe.
  2. Faith is not something that happens to you and then you believe.
  3. Faith is not hoping something turns out in your favor.
  4. \*\*Faith is choice you make to believe God once you have heard/or experienced who He is and what He has promised.
  5. When you became a believer in Christ and trusted Him for your salvation, you made a choice based on what you heard. IE. It is part of the Gospel plan.
- B. The Hebrew word for ‘choose’ gives us insight. Let's look at two familiar OT passages.
  1. Moses - *“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. **Therefore choose** life, that you and your offspring may live,”* (Deuteronomy 30:19, ESV)
  2. Joshua - *“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, **choose** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**”* – (Joshua 24:15, ESV)
  3. “Choose” comes from the Hebrew word ‘bahar’ – which means to look at and examine. IE. It is what you do at the supermarket when choosing fruit, vegetables, steak and of course bacon.
    - a) *“It is important to note, ... that it always involves a careful, well thought-out choice. The word is used to express that choosing which has ultimate and eternal significance.”*  
Oswalt, J. N. (1999). [בָּחַר](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 100). Chicago: Moody Press.

- b) After examining and looking at all the evidence both Moses and Joshua told the children of Israel to choose God! Moses gave them the answer. Choose LIFE!
- C. Moses life was the sum of his choices just like ours is.
  1. Some of those choices are wise.
  2. Some of those choices are foolish. The book of proverbs is about wise choices.
  3. To choose to walk in faith is wise choice/decision.

## II. Faith At the Crossroad

- A. IE. Renewal in 1995—six months of revival, six nights a week. I had an experience with God. I received prayer. I went out in the Spirit. And for the next two hours I had a repeating vision. In the vision I saw a short skinny man in a worn-out 'robe like' outfit. He was walking from my left to right in my vision and we met at a crossroad. He nodded as if to say, "Follow me." I knew he was Paul the apostle and where he was about to go would be painful. I couldn't do it. Then it felt like electric going through my body and the vision would repeat. Finally I said yes, I'll go. When I did I came out of the vision.
  1. You will always be at a crossroad when God invites you to walk by faith and not by sight.
  2. The cross road means decision or choice. Like Moses and Joshua - Choose life or death. It is a crossroad. You choose to believe in Jesus or not. You choose to trust God or not. IE. In giving you choose to walk in faith or not.
- B. Moses' parents chose to trust God. (Exodus 1)
  1. The Hebrews were ordered to kill their male babies.
  2. Moses' parents were at a crossroad, would they obey the law or not.
  3. They chose not to and to spare Moses' life.
  4. Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. He was given the best food, best education, best place to live—the palace.
  5. As he grew he chose to identify with his own people. (That should be a prayer for our kids in this hour: As they mature may they choose to identify with their spiritual roots.) (Hebrews 11:24-26)
  6. He chose to turn his back on Egypt and to go God's way. God calls that faith in Hebrews 11:23-24. "*By faith Moses...*" He saw vs. 26 that it was better to suffer than to identify with the pleasures of Egypt.
- C. The crossroad of serving Christ or serving self.
  1. "*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*" (Matthew 6:24, ESV) God or the pleasures of Egypt.
  2. We have to make a choice between what the world has to offer and what God has to offer. Again, in Matthew 7:13-14 you must choose to enter through the narrow gate or wide gate. Both have consequences.
    - a) One leads to life.
    - b) One leads to death.

- c) The choice you make is a faith choice! The one you can see with your eyes. The other is seen by faith. Faith is a choice! It is choosing where God leads and what God offers. This is faith.
3. Some of Kelly and my greatest adventures in life have come as a result of faith.
  - a) No, they were not all easy, at all.
  - b) Yes, they were all very memorable. IE. Moving to Florida to start a church. Six mission trips do not ask for money. Choosing to stay in Florida when we wanted to go.

### III. All Are Welcome to Believe

- A. An unusual person in the Faith Hall of Fame–Rahab, the prostitute.
  1. The Canaanite prostitute, Rahab, believes that God has delivered the Hebrews from Egypt. And she helps the spies escape.
  2. She is also found in Jesus genealogy. (Matthew 1:5)
    - a) God honors her faith and places her right in the very lineage of Jesus!
    - b) God made her house of 'disrespect' into a house honored and respected.
    - c) James 2:25 says she was justified by her works. In other words, she proved her faith by her actions. In faith she made a choice. *"Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road."* (James 2:25, NLT)
- B. No one is disqualified by their past! Only encouraged to believe. It does not matter how far down you have fallen, only that you choose to believe! *"It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies."* (Hebrews 11:31, NLT)
  1. She let hang out the window a scarlet rope. A red rope.
  2. IE. I recently watched a program on Jericho that said that the wall fell inward, was burnt after the walls fell and that one small portion of the wall did not fall like the rest.
  3. That scarlet rope was her family's passage to life! By faith she chose to put it out the window.
- C. Faith meant freedom for Rahab and her family.
  1. Faith still means freedom today for those who will believe.
  2. Faith gives us access to all God offers!
  3. Faith came by hearing about all that God did for the Israelites!

### Conclusion:

- Faith is a choice! Faith is action! Faith is a wonderful thing for all who find it!
- The Adventure begins when you choose to walk by faith.
- The Adventure continues with each successive faith step!