

Notes from the Sunday Service “ In pursuit of Faith” from Ps. Tak Bhana.

Study Outline

GCC Sermon: Sunday 24th Nov. 9am & 11am

Speaker: Guest Speaker Ps. Tak Bhana

Title: In pursuit of faith

In Hebrews chapter 11 we have a roll of God’s heroes/champions/superstars – and the quality they all have is ***faith***.

We might expect that love, or character or prayer might be more important, but to develop love, holiness, answered prayer, we need ***faith***.

If we want to buy something here or overseas, we need money. But in God’s ‘shopping mall’ we need the currency of heaven, ***faith***.

His ‘mall’ sells everything we need – finance, healing, courage, jobs... Nothing is ever out of stock, and there are no queues. All have a lifetime guarantee.

We don’t need money to buy all we need is ***faith***

Whether rich or poor, doesn’t matter. To be rich in the kingdom of God we need ***faith***.

- Have you found this to be true?
- How do we get faith? Romans 10.17

As we listen and receive, our faith is built up.

- 1 John 5.4; What else does faith bring?
- Matthew 9.29; How did these men receive healing?

Faith is a trigger that releases divine power.

Not positive thinking or mental assent. Not name it/claim it or other formula.

Faith is born out of intimacy with God. Real faith needs a close relationship with Him; otherwise ego, ambition and pride get in the way. What happens then?

Smith Wigglesworth said, ‘*I can get more out of a moment’s faith than out of a month’s yelling.*’

It’s not how much we pray, but the faith we pray with, that brings results. Mark 11.24. It’s not - see it and believe it, but believe and you will see it.

Pray, know you have the answer – pray with faith. Psalm 23.6.

Take hold of that and receive it, and faith releases God to work on our behalf. Expect him to come through.

Faith is cornerstone, a foundation. Satan works to knock this down, to cut our faith out. Consider Job – he lost everything – Satan didn't want his children or herds or anything else but Job's faith. He wanted Job to think that God can't be trusted, he doesn't care, it doesn't pay to serve him, but Job didn't lose his faith.

- What would have happened if he had?

Everything doesn't always work out as we expect or wish or hope – but if we have faith we let God do His work His way. Don't let faith be determined by your experiences.

We don't always know what God is doing or why he is doing it, our finite mind can't understand an infinite God.

- Matthew 17.20. How big does our faith have to be?

A tiny seed of real faith can move a huge mountain, said Jesus.

So don't try to have a huge faith, just take the faith you have and use it. As we use it, it grows

How can faith help?

1.It gives confidence in God in the face of a great challenge, Romans 12.3.

Do we believe that the measure of faith we have been given is enough?

God knows what we face, and gives what we need to get through well. We need to be confident in what He has given.

- Have you experienced this?

David and Israel's army saw a giant. What was different in their reactions to the giant? Why was David not afraid?

- Do you have a God-dominated mind, or a problem dominated mind?
- What fills your mind, the problem or God?

Eagles have learned how to face a storm. While the rest of nature fears the storm, the eagle faces it at the right angle, and uses it to go higher. So with Christians, they use the storm to go higher. What is your angle – faith? Or fear? God allows the storms to come and take us higher.

Don't waste a good storm, maximize it!

2.Faith gives the ability to keep a right attitude in facing trial or injustice.

Hebrews 12.15, James 3.14. What are the destructive attitudes that can so easily cut our faith?

Everyone faces the attitude test – when rejection, injustice, betrayal, criticism, abuse, etc. happens.

Think of those in the Bible who faced such tests.
Jesus faced them as well. How did he respond to his tests?

Faith says, 'God is with me, he is in control, he will bring me through.'
He will enable us to stay sweet, not bitter. Victor Frankl in the concentration camp said that '*nobody could take from him the way he chose to respond to what was done to him*'.

Choose your attitude. 10% of the problem is what happens, 90% of it is our response to the problem. We can have the right attitude if we have the seed of faith

3.Faith can help you to take new territory.

Numbers 13.26-28, 30-31. Ten spies saw the giants and were afraid.
Two saw something else. 14.6-8. What did they focus on?

In Joshua 1.6-7 God gives Joshua his instructions.
Seven times throughout Joshua he repeats his command that Joshua be strong, courageous, and not fear.

- What was he to do instead?

To take new territory there will be giants, but God gives the faith that is needed to take the land.

How to increase faith

1.Know God

Daniel 11.32. How do we get to know our God?
1 Samuel 13.14 – what kind of person does God seek?
Genesis 5.25, - What did Enoch do?
Exodus 33.11 – How close to God was Moses?
Philippians 3.10 – What did Paul want above all?

2.Know the Word of God

Romans 10.17

3.Exercise the faith you have

4.Walk with faith-filled people who believe God.
Keep away from negative people

5.Talk faith without being false
Proverbs 18.21

6. Read faith

Read what builds you up in your faith – the writers who have learned how to grow in faith.

7. Watch faith

Don't watch rubbish on TV, watch what builds up

- What challenges are you facing?

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Don't give up or back away – your final chapter is yet to be written

And don't forget, *'Surely goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life'*.

Notes prepared by Paul Anslow.