

The Demonstration of Faith

Last week I spoke on the description of faith. I said true Biblical faith is not blind optimism or a manufactured “hope so” feeling rather it is a confident obedience to God’s word in spite of circumstances and consequences. And lastly we learned that faith is only as good as its object. Sincerity doesn’t equal biblical faith.

This week I want to talk about the demonstration of your faith. What good is faith without demonstration? The apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 2:1-5 “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with **a demonstration of the Spirits power**, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”

See, Gods not calling hecklers, he’s calling followers!!!!

Why do you think Paul said, “I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom.”?

Because his audience had heard it all of their lives from the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law. Paul knew the only way to convince a dead, religious culture was to bring a demonstration of power with his message.

Let’s look at some of the heroes of faith that taught us through demonstration of their faith.

- **Vs.4 Able taught us how to faith worship.** “By faith Able offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”
- God had revealed to Adam and his descendants the true way to worship, and Able obeyed God by faith. In fact his obedience cost him his life. When is the last time your worship, your determination to press through to God cost you something? Abel’s brother Cain was religious but he wasn’t righteous. He knew the motions and rituals but he didn’t know God. We can get so caught

up in the familiar that we miss the Father. Remember our faith is only as good as its object!!

- So let's start worshipping by faith. Let's worship despite how we feel or what is going on in our life because He is worthy of our praise.
- **Enoch was a faith walker. Vs.5, 6** Enoch walked with God in a wicked world before the flood came. He was able to keep his life pure before The Lord.
- Church this world is increasingly getting worse. We live in a day and time where it is hard to keep our lives pure. That's why it is important to walk with God as Enoch did. God is asking us to be that "city on a hill that cannot be hidden." To shine your light in the darkness. We will never push back the darkness if we are still part of it and engaging in it.
- So we've seen that Able was a faith worshipper and Enoch was a faith walker.
The next person I want to look at is Noah. He was a faith worker.
- Noah's faith involved the whole person: His mind, heart and his will. His mind was warned of God about the things to come; his heart was moved with fear, and his will acted on what God told him.
- Does this sound familiar? God still operates the same way. He speaks to our mind that engages our heart that ultimately engages our will. Noah heard from the Lord and got to work. Have you given up on a work that God has called you to do? Maybe because you just simply got tired or lost hope or better yet, you listened to others around you calling what you are doing crazy, or saying that doesn't make sense. Think about it. God asked Noah to build a boat. No one had ever seen it rain but Noah got to work. His actions must have generated a lot of buzz in the community.
- Some of you have been given your marching orders from God but have stopped faith working because, well you fill in the blank. Don't you think it's time to get back to work?

- **Take a look at the patriarchs. They were Faith Waiting. Vs.8-12, 17-22.**
- This section is the promise of God and his plan for Israel. I will confess that waiting for me is very difficult. I do not like it. But true faith is able to wait for the fulfillment of God's purposes in God's timing. And while we are waiting we must also be obeying vs.8 "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."
 - Abraham obeyed when he did not know how God's will would be accomplished, he obeyed when he didn't know when God would fulfill His promise and he obeyed God by faith when he did not know why.
- Why is it that we think we have to have ALL the facts before we obey? That's not faith.
- Lastly, comfort and safety isn't the end game of our faith. Look at vs.32-38.
- Not all men and women of faith experience miraculous deliverance. Some were tortured and died. Even though they were not delivered on earth, their faith speaks to us today and for all time. Do you know it takes more faith to endure than it does to escape?
 - Man's estimate of these heroes of the faith were low ones, so they persecuted them, tortured them and in some cases killed them but God's estimate of them is entirely different. He said "this world was not worthy of them."

Church "without faith it is impossible to please God." This type of faith grows as we listen to His Word. Faith is possible to all kinds of believers in all kinds of situations. It isn't for a few it is a necessity for us of God's people. Lord increase our faith!!!!