

***Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for March 21, 2021.***

**THE CALL TO FAITH**

**Mark 11:15-26 Verse 22**

**And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.**

**The call from God to have faith comes to the heart of every person. This is God's first call or command. This is God's primary call to each of us.**

**Our response to this call determines whether we will be capable of hearing other calls from God.**

**Jesus came in order that He might help man to have faith in the only God. The problem that we have today is that man has not followed this example.**

**It was even the lack of faith in the hearts of His disciples that limited what he could do in them and what they could do for others (Matthew 17:14-21). <sup>14</sup>And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, <sup>15</sup>Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. <sup>16</sup>And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. <sup>19</sup>Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?**

**20And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

Let us consider some of the truths concerning the call of FAITH.

### **I. GENUINE FAITH IS DIFFICULT.**

- 1. We are people of flesh who like to walk by sight. This is part of our human development. We want to follow the faith of common sense where no risk is involved. Moreover, the devil is delighted when we do this.**
- 2. We have a natural tendency to live only for the moment. We major upon satisfying our stomach and the clothing on our back.**
- 3. Many times, when we get between a rock and hard place instead of keeping the faith, we go the other way.**

**Is your faith worth fighting for, is it valuable enough for you to practice it and put it to the test?**

### **II. FAITH IS NOT ONLY REASONABLE BUT NECESSARY**

- 1. Faith is necessary for us to bear testimony of our own individual experiences. With reverence we can say that, like Enoch, we have walked with God and that God has walked with us. Genesis 5:24. **And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.****

**Like Abraham have we walked with God.**

**Like the disciples following the resurrection, we have experienced the presence of the living Lord as He has come to comfort, to counsel, to commission and to change our lives.**

**By faith we must accept this, but do we?**

- 2. Without faith life is empty and without purpose. Little faith or no faith will attempt nothing of real significance. Little faith was the undoing sin of ancient Israel.**

This lack of faith was the sin which hindered the Lord's disciples. **If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

This lack of faith also is the sin which keeps us from enjoying the many pleasures of Christianity. We do not use our faith like we should because we do not pray like we should.

### III. THE WAY OF FAITH:

Faith is *Hebrews 11:1* **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

1. Faith is based on our testimony: **Not the testimony of our senses (sight, taste, smell, feeling, and hearing) but the testimony of what we have let God do for us.** How much have we let God do?

2. Faith is trust in God. In the truest sense it is the gift of God but the response of the person. Are we using this gift?

3. Our Faith in God can and must grow. God is faithful and can be depended upon by those who trust Him. The more we trust Him the more we pray and fast the greater our faith will become. Do we trust Him?

Have we given our lives to Him and asked forgiveness?

Have we accepted Him as our Father?

Have or are we walking in the Faith that He has given us, all of it.

The disciples did not.

As we continue to deal with storms in our lives, we need to realize that Satan is working overtime in America today. We do need to put all our Faith in the Lord.

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