

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF FAITH

J.S. Boegl • House of Prayer Series #03

- A. What is Biblical "FAITH"?
- "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible... Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*** (Hebrews 11:1-3; 6; 8-10)
- B. In this age, our faith *always* exists within a hostile context! The 24/7 natural way of the world is **hostile to God** (Romans 8:7). We live within a world (media, movies, cultural norms, schools etc.) that daily assaults
1. The Person of Jesus,
 2. the true knowledge of Him (2 Corinthians 10:5) and
 3. the truth about our (the Church's) relationship to Him (Revelation 12:10)
- C. ***"Cast all you care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith..."***
That which withstands the assault of the enemy is our faith in God. (See also James 4:7-8; and James 1:5-8)
- D. Beloved, the Church needs to be equipped with more than an intellectual checklist about Who Jesus is. If our relationship with Jesus is to survive and thrive in this age, we need to gird ourselves with fresh, strong, experiential confidence in Who He is.
- D. The House of Prayer is one of God's prime end-time vehicles to equip the Church with daily strength for our faith.
1. By posturing ourselves in a focused atmosphere of prayer, worship, and the Word the Holy Spirit strengthens our spirits by illuminating the Man: Jesus Christ.
 2. As we behold Him and let our hearts soak in His love and grace and freedom and hope and vision and strength and wisdom, etc. This is the dynamic that Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would bring to all believers:
"When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine (glory, beauty, majesty, ability, humility, kindness, love, strength etc.) and declare it to you... I said He will take of Mine and declare it to you." (John 16:13-15)
 3. As we behold Him and receive the Holy Spirit's Words of declared truth about Jesus, we grow bold in His goodness - and we grow in confidence in His mercy, His order, and His judgments.
 4. The longer we gaze upon Him, receive the Holy Spirit's Declarations, the more our faith is strengthened.
 5. Ultimately we declare, ***"Who else is like You? Who else is filled with such power to exhilarate, provide, heal, save, deliver and fulfill? Who else is so wise, and so insightful? Who else is able to reconcile estranged hearts, and to forgive? Who else has so much zeal for justice? Who else is so for me? Who else but You, Jesus?"***
- E. These are the testimonies of vibrant real-time "faith". This is how faith is meant to be attached to real life. This is Who faith is always meant to be attached to. This is also what it means for us to "share our faith": we're telling others what we've experienced and what we know about the Person of Jesus of Nazareth.
- F. What lifestyle patterns are you establishing to ensure that your faith is getting this living intellectual, emotional, spiritual and experiential strength? What truths about this Man are you feeding your soul today?
- G. Many believers tragically starve their souls of His heavenly strength, but routinely eat the fruit of the secular world to exhilarate their spirit. Then we wonder why we have no faith to pray for healing, have little strength to stand for justice, and waning passion to tell others about Jesus.
- H. Real life is, if we do not refresh our souls in the Holy Spirit's stream of ***the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*** (Ephesians 1:17), our spirits *will* foolishly drink the cesspool of lies the enemy delivers to our hearts every day. And we will be incapacitated to walk in the daily personal, Kingdom victories that our Father longs for us to engage.

- I. We will also be incapacitate to ***stand firm in our faith*** in the hour of great temptation, rage and shaking that is growing up in the earth.
1. Jesus called this time a time of ***tribulation*** ***then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*** (Matthew 24:21)
 2. The apostle Paul warned of a time that would produce a ***great falling away*** (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- J. We are in need of a great strength that will produce a great endurance within us, in order to receive the greatest promise the world has ever received.
Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. (Hebrews 10:35-36) (Also Romans 12:11-12)
- K. In Joshua, we see a picture of how a person prepares himself to faithfully follow God through great tumult into great promise. Along with Moses, Joshua was led out of generations of bondage, through a miraculous exodus. But Joshua's heart was filled with more than signs and wonders.
- L. On the day that God called Israel to enter into the land, Joshua's heart was filled with confidence to declare: ***"We can go into the promise. Even though there are great giants in our path, I've seen the Lord. And He is more than capable to bring us into what He's promised."*** Where did Joshua's confidence come from? Why did he not shrink back in fear and unbelief like the others?
- M. Joshua's secret is found in Exodus 33. This humble hero of the faith spent his days and nights in the wilderness strengthening his spirit in the Lord's ***tent of meeting***.
"So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle, day or night." (Exodus 33:11)
- N. Joshua prepared himself for God's great military victory by cultivating a lifestyle of doing (Psalm 27:1-5) ***"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble... He shall set me high upon a rock."***
- O. Beloved, we're about to go through the most tumultuous season in human history in preparation to receive the resurrected King Who is returning to rule the earth. Right now the earth is in the possession of the evil one (1 John 5:19) You can bet your bottom dollar that the enemy will oppose Jesus' coming with everything that he has at his disposal. And he is. Today, his rage is intense across the earth. He is zealous to cripple and destroy our faith.
- P. The good news is the Holy Spirit is strengthening the Bride of Christ in His ***"tent of meeting"*** where we are invited to meet with the One Who is praying for us; just like He did for Peter; praying that our faith ***will not fail***, (Luke 22:32) and we will boldly exalt His justice, brilliance and worthiness to rule the nations. (Revelation 5:9)
- "Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, (in intimacy) strengthen your brethren."*** (Luke 22:31-32)