

TOPIC 3

Choose Our Focus

Private Disciplines

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock.

Mathew 7: 24 -25

If simply believing was enough to make a difference, imagine how different our lives would be. No one would have addictions or overwhelming debt.

Belief alone doesn't create change. We already know what we need for a better life, but knowledge and belief are not enough.

Jesus knew this. Consequently, he didn't invite people to believe things because doing them makes all the difference.

Jesus' initial invitation wasn't just to believe many things but to "follow me."

It was relational and active. Jesus invited people to live a life that reflected their confidence and faith or trust in God.

When our faithfulness to God intersects with His faithfulness to us, our faith gets bigger.

God, I'm going to say yes to you, even though I don't know how it's going to turn out.

I don't know the outcome, but God, I trust you.

Your "it's all I have faith" on this side of the decision to follow Jesus gets bigger when you experience God's faithfulness on the other side.

When we experience God's faithfulness, we're experiencing God.

Reinforcing the Boundaries and Guiding Principles

Before we begin our Circles of Hope discussion, it's important for everyone to review the following guiding principles and boundaries. These are essential for creating a safe and restorative space for those dealing with spiritual trauma.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Play the “long game” and trust God with the outcome.
- Use love to build bridges to Jesus; don't lose the relationship.
- You can love well without losing your convictions of faith.



CIRCLE OF HOPE TOPICS

When I feel alone and my faith is inadequate, where can I find the focus to regain my trust in God?