

FINDING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD... TOGETHER!



Gathering at 502 Pike Street, Superior MT

SERMON TITLE: ***Biblical Life Words: Living by God's Word: FAITH***
SERMON TEXT: **Hebrews 11:1-6**
DATE: 19 February 2023

Sermon Series Scripture: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Biblical Life Words (or Phrases) have a purpose each week:

1. Each week, God is out to change your life through His Word!

2. Each week, we'll set our focus on God's Word; **WHY?**

Hebrews 4:12: For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1 Peter 2:2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3. Each week, we have the opportunity know and grow in Christ.

Now as we turn to our Word or Phrase each week: we must:

Remember, we are *not able to totally cover* each word or phrase in 1 hour!

Remember, the sermon is to encourage *your further study*.

Remember, God speaks to you *directly and personally!*

Remember, we *worship together* as we meet Him in His Word!

As we turn to our word this week: Faith, we need to understand that the biblical scope of Faith is extensive and requires us to address the different parts here as we begin. The KJV Study Bible explains:

Six expressions of faith that occur in Scripture.

1. ***Doctrinal faith***, the faith, refers to all content of Christian belief - ***Jude 3.***

2. ***Saving faith*** is trusting in Christ alone for salvation - ***Acts 16:31.***

3. ***Justifying faith*** is the believer's reliance on the fact that God has declared him righteous
Genesis 15:6.

4. ***Indwelling faith*** is trusting God's Word in/through us - ***Galatians 2:20.***

5. ***Daily faith*** is that day-by-day dependence on God which is part of the sanctification process -
2 Corinthians 5:7.

6. ***Gift of faith*** is a special ability of faith, resulting in a vision of what *God can do*, faith, the means by which we can achieve that vision, the power with God to get answers to prayer
Hebrews 11:1-3

Illustration: God's hall of faith in Hebrews 11 identifies a number of Old Testament saints who experienced God's blessing as a result of their faith. Although they did not all experience the same kind of victories, but, all pleased God by faith *Hebrews 11:6*.

Application: The Christian (believer, follower of Christ) should remember that it is impossible to please God without faith *Hebrews 11:6*.

Special Note: Let me make two points here; [1] there is a fine line between faith and foolishness; for man's definition of faith may not be God's definition of faith. [2] **biblical faith** is not *faith in faith*, the sole object of biblical faith is *in God and God alone*.

I. LOOK: "Let's Meet God, together, in His Word!"

Deuteronomy 32:19-20: ¹⁹ And when the LORD saw it, He abhorred them, because of the provoking of His sons, and of His daughters. ²⁰ And He said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

Habakkuk 2:4: Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Matthew 6:30: Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 8:10: ¹⁰ When Jesus heard it (the centurion's) He marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 8:26: And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Matthew 9:22: But Jesus turned him about, and when He saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matthew 16:8: Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Matthew 17:20: And 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.

Mark 11:22: And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Luke 8:25: And He said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him.

Luke 22:31-32: ³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: ³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Acts 6:5: And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,

Acts 6:7-8: And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Romans 1:8: First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Romans 1:17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 3:27-38: Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 5:1-2: Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 15:14: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

2 Corinthians 5:7: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:2-23: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Ephesians 2:8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

2 Thessalonians 1:3: We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Hebrews 10:22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:23: Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

1 John 5:4: For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

II. LEARN:

Learning Note 1: **SELECT** a Passage:

Hebrews 11:1- 6:

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **2** For by it the elders obtained a good report **3** Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **5** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. **6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Learning Note 2: **STUDY**

Study Point 1:

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

#1. Faith is actively believing in, trusting in, and relying upon God for all things, in all things and with all things; it's the complete opposite of doubt, worry, and or unbelief

#2. In **verse 1**, we see what faith does: it provides “*substance/assurance*” and it provides “*evidence/proof*” which, when combined together provides confidence in God for all of life.

- “*Substance,*” speaks to a future hope; “*Evidence,*” involves present realities that are unseen KJV Study Bible states: “The first includes the ‘hope’ of the resurrection, the return of Christ, and the glorification of the saints. The second involves unseen realities, such as the forgiveness of sin through Christ’s sacrifice and the present intercession of Christ in heaven.”
- ‘*Hope,*’ is faith relating to the future; *conviction* is faith relating to the present.
- Dr. J. Oswald Sanders said: “Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.”

Study Point 2:

Heb. 11:3: Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

- The Bible tells us that God made or created everything and we choose to believe that by faith, period.
- The phrase “*by faith or through faith*,” sets the discussion in **chapter 11** and yet here in verse three the emphasis is not on a single person but a change is seen with the word “we”. Expositor’s: “*For the most part it is attached to the deeds of the great ones of previous generations. Here, however, the writer and his readers are involved in the “we.” Faith is a present reality, not exclusively the property of past heroes.*” **Faith in God is now!**

Study Point 3:

Heb. 11:6: But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

- There’s only one way to please God--God’s way and that’s the ***way of faith***. “Enoch walked with God and pleased God. Remember, salvation is not a reward—it is a free gift. You work for your reward, but not for salvation. ***Salvation comes by faith***, and the walk of the Christian is also ***by faith***. Enoch walked with God by faith.” (J V McGee)
- It is not difficult to please God without faith; it is **impossible** to please God without faith. There is no substitute for faith!

Learning Note 3: SUMMARIZE

Summary Statement 1: Charles Haddon Spurgeon said: “*It is not thy hold on Christ that saves thee; it is Christ. It is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee; it is Christ. It is not even thy faith in Christ that saves thee, though that be the instrument. It is Christ’s blood and merit.*” That is what saves you, my friend. Faith just lays hold of it—that is all. Faith, therefore, is not something mysterious at all—it is that which looks completely to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary Statement 2: Dr. G. Campbell Morgan: “*Life is to be mastered by faith, and not by doubt; it is to be forevermore illuminated by hope, and not darkened by despair; and in its activity love is to be practiced in fellowship.*”

Summary Statement 3: *Faith is not a leap in the dark. Faith is not a hope-so. Faith is substance and evidence—substance for a scientific mind, and evidence for a legal mind. If you really want to believe, you can believe. You can believe a whole lot of foolish things, but God doesn’t want you to do that. He wants your faith to rest upon the Word of God.* (J.V. McGee)

III. LIVE OUT:

Action Step 1: Plan to consistently identify and deal with those enemies that seek to derail your faith walk, such as, doubt, worry, unbelief, etc. Be specific. Be honest. What’s keeping you from trusting, believing, and putting your faith in God?

Action Step 2: Plan to concentrate on what God has done, is doing, and will do instead, of what is happening in the world around you.

Romans 8:5-6: For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh;

but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Action Step 3: Plan to continuously pursue your personal, spiritual relationship with your Savior and Lord.

Hebrews 12:1-2: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

CONCLUSION

Let's conclude with the following note of encouragement:

*“Looking unto Jesus’ is the key. We are surrounded by a world that clamors for our attention and attempts to draw our hearts in its direction. It is a world of business that compels us to cope with life in all its difficulties and troubles. That is the world we see. Our task is to see yet another world invisible to the eye. It can only be seen by faith. To live in this world with our hearts in the next requires a faith that fixes our spiritual eyes on Jesus. He longs for us to long after Him. He wants us to be home sick for Him. He wants us to thirst after Him. He wants us to be like King David who prayed, **Psalm 42:1-2; ‘1 As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?’** When we keep our hearts in the next world, we can experience true peace when this earthly world all around us is in turmoil.” – Josh McDowell*

INVITATION

God continually, graciously invites you to join Him in His Kingdom's work.