

Introduction:

- *"But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9, NLT)
- We spent five weeks looking at what the Word of God has to say about fear. One of the things that stands out where Jesus pointed out fear was this. *"You of little faith."* It seems that fear is the opposite of faith. Fear trusts the devil and faith trusts God.
- Last week we covered 'In times of desperation' remember: Jesus is your only answer. Be clothed/covered with Christ. And remember covenant.
- Today we dive into faith. "Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation." Elton Trueblood, Quaker Theologian. O' to have no reservations in operating in faith!
- "Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time." [Oswald Chambers, early 20th century Scottish minister and Bible teacher]

I. Faith Calls Us To "Come Out" In fact, we often hear the line, *"Step out in faith!"*

- A. Unbelief will call you to stay put. Play it safe. Don't risk it.
 1. It's unbelief that stops us at the boarder of attaining all the promises of God.
 2. Unbelief would have kept Abraham in the Ur of Chaldes; caused Noah to drown, and Joshua to not cross over the Jordan into the promised land.
 3. Unbelief is a thief that robs God's people of God's best for them. It is an enemy and must be treated as such. Take it captive!
 4. "Doubt sees what currently is and no more. Hope sees what can be but is not yet. Faith sees what will be as if it were now."
- B. Everything we receive from God, we receive by faith. Salvation, healing, deliverance, prosperity, etc.
 1. Abraham received righteous from God by faith...and so do we. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9, ESV) Romans 4-5
 2. Hebrews 11, *by faith*. 'By faith' implies that what follows was accomplished through faith. By faith...what are you accomplishing by faith in your life.
 - a) Able offered...
 - b) Enoch was taken...
 - c) Noah was warned...
- C. Faith calls us to something.
 1. Faith calls us to action in order to receive what God has promised and desires to give us.
 - a) Able was called to offer the best.
 - b) Enoch was called to walk with God.
 - c) Noah was warned in a dream.
 - d) Abraham was called to leave Chaldes. *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."* (Hebrews 11:8, ESV) **Faith Loves An Adventure.**

2. Faith calls us to respond in total trust to the Word of God.
- D. *"Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen."* (Hebrews 11:1, TPT) Ie. When people are sick they hope to get better. When people's bank statement do not balance they hope for more income/favor. The Word allows/gives us opportunity to move from the place of hope to the place of trust. They are two different things- hope and trust.
1. Our hope is built on the foundation of our faith.
 2. *"Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen."* (Hebrews 11:1, TPT)
 3. The Word reveals to us what we can trust God for. I.E. salvation, healing, provision, acceptance, protection, love, etc. "Faith begins where the will of God is known." FF Bosworth, Christ the Healer.
 4. The Adventure starts when we see God's promises are our future realities.
- E. Faith is total trust or confidence in God doing what He said He would do! Presumption is thinking that God must do what we've determined is necessary. Faith is trusting God at His word and not falling back to our own understanding and power to work it out. "...*This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.*" (Zechariah 4:6, ESV)

II. Faith Requires Us To Step Out

- A. Joshua chapters 1-4 we see faith in action! Joshua and Caleb were men of faith going way back...at least 40 years.
1. God talks to Joshua. Time to take a step!
 - a) Time for you to lead.
 - b) Where ever you set your foot I will give you. 1:3 Requires Joshua to take a step.
 - c) No one will stand against you. 1:5 Requires Joshua to confront his enemies.
 2. God gives him the secret to winning! 1:6,-9
 - a) Be strong and courageous! Stand your ground. Work the Word. Dismantle fear.
 - b) Be careful to obey.
 - c) Meditate day and night on the Word
 - d) Do not be afraid. vs 9 Do not back up when you step out.
- B. The people are called:
1. To prepare to cross. Meant packing a lunch and packing up your tent. In three days we leave.
 2. To purify themselves. Faith is hindered because of our struggle with impurity. Not by God but by the double mindedness impurity causes us. Double minded man can't expect to receive anything from God. (James 1:7)
- C. The Priest are called to step out into a flooded Jordan river: 3:6

1. Lift up the ark. They are carrying the Presence where the miracle is needed...the flooded Jordan.
 2. Lead the people across the flooded river. vs 15 flooded river.
 3. Locate in the middle of the river. They are called to stand in the river. As the river recedes they have to continue walking to remain in the river. vs 17.
 4. These priests had to step out and stand in the river until miles of fast moving water passed by them; water that threatened to drown them and wash them away. That's the way it feels when we step out by faith into the dreams and visions God has given us. It feels like the waters of difficulties and problems are going to drown us. But before we can enter into the fullness of the promises, we'll have to face these same seemingly impossible situations and obstacles by taking a step out.
- D. Peter was called to step out of the boat and stand on the water. *“Come and join me,” Jesus replied. So Peter stepped out onto the water and began to walk toward Jesus.* (Matthew 14:29, TPT)
1. He responded to Jesus' simple word/invitation "Come."
 2. He then in faith step out and stood on the water.
 3. Was it risky? Yes in the eyes of man it was risky but in the eyes of God it was glorious!
 4. Faith is always risky because it deals in impossibilities. And the good news is...JESUS CAUGHT HIM!!! Jesus will catch you too!

III. Faith Causes Us To Stand Out

- A. People who do the impossible, achieve the impossible, and obtain the impossible always stand out. Jesus drew a crowd by the miracles he did. They were amazed at the impossible barriers He destroyed.
1. *"The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you."* (Joshua 3:7, ESV)
 2. Roman officer. *"When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith."* (Matthew 8:10, ESV)
 3. Gentile woman. *"Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly."* (Matthew 15:28, ESV)
 4. The entire Hebrews 11 chapter.
- B. I want to stand out first in the eyes of God. *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6, ESV)
1. What a testimony, to have Jesus say of you, "I have not seen such great faith!"
 2. Or the Gentile woman, "O Woman you have such great faith!"
 3. I would rather have Jesus say that of me than person on the earth!
- C. I want to stand out next in the eyes of man.
1. To get their attention.
 2. To tell them about my God.
 3. To invite them on the adventure of a lifetime.

Conclusion:

- God calls us to come. We step out in faith. Standout in faith. And...
- When faith becomes the victory that overcomes the world, there will be a great shout out to God in praise. A new song will be sung. And His name will be lifted high!

Andrew Murray " -Faith expects from God what is beyond all expectation."

"Depression is the emotional result of hopelessness. Joy is the emotional result of hope. Peace is the emotional result of faith."