

Introduction:

- We have been looking at the gift of faith. We have defined what it is. Last week we looked at Jesus exhortation, explanation, and exploration found in Mk 11:22-24.
- Jesus is the exact representation of a perfectly redeemed restored man. I am not saying He was redeemed and restored; I am saying He is the perfect picture of a fully redeemed man filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God wants us to walk in His faith. How is this possible?

I. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of Our Faith

- A. I am not the beginning and end of my faith. That approach is very humanistic.
 1. Faith in God is not a philosophical matter.
 2. Faith in God is not a matter of the mind, enlightenment, mind science.
 3. Often our own struggle to grow in faith becomes that because we are trying to figure it all out in our head. If I can have the right confession, say it enough time, memorize the right scriptures. All of these can help but they cannot be an end in themselves.
- B. **“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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** (Hebrews 12:2, NKJV) Isn't it interesting that everything OT points to Jesus and everything NT points back to Jesus? Jesus is the Main Point. Therefore, it shouldn't surprise us to be exhorted to look to Jesus the beginning and ending of our faith.
 1. Looking to Jesus—the starting point of our faith.
 2. Looking to Jesus—the perfecter of our faith.
 3. Our faith starts with Him and ends with Him. “Looking,” means to look away from everything else and look only to one thing. That is like saying with your eyes, “Jesus, I know you got this!”
- C. God intends for us to have a faith operating in our lives that never wavers. A faith that meets every challenge, condition, circumstance, and does not waiver. Where does that faith come from?
 1. It comes from having God's faith.
 2. **“Then Jesus said to the disciples, *“Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.*”** (Mark 11:22–24, NLT) “Have the faith of God!” or “Have the faith that God gives.”
 3. It comes from God having been imparted to us.

II. Jesus is the Sustainer of My Faith

- A. My faith begins with Jesus when I invite Him into my heart. When Jesus comes into a man's life, He brings all of His faith with Him!
 1. Jesus understood that the disciples need the God kind of faith. That is why He exhorted them to ‘have the God kind of faith.’
 2. Two things happened to accomplish this. 1. In John 20:22 He breathed not them the Holy Spirit. 2. Acts 2, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. The 11 and the 109 in the upper room were transformed with this one event. What happened? The Spirit of Jesus filled them. Paul has the same experience, Acts 9:17. Paul receives His sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit of Christ, we are positioned to walk in the God kind of faith.
- B. My faith continues with Jesus as I live this life given to me.
 1. The disciples needed the impartation of God's faith to them. I need it too!

2. “My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20, NLT)
 - a) What happened to self? Crucified. This is why Kathryn Kuhlman would say, “God is not looking for golden vessel or silver vessels. He is looking for yielded vessels”
 - b) Who is alive in me? Christ. When we die to ourselves then Christ lives in us! And when Christ lives in us, it is His faith that is expressed. Ie. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit... God in temple=fire, Dagon fell on his face when God was in the temple.
 - c) This is why living the ‘crucified life’ is so important to the believer.
 - d) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1, NLT)...looking to Jesus the author...
- C. The need for intimacy with Christ. This kind comes out only by prayer and fasting. It is in the presence of God that we draw closer to Him and honor the work He has done in us.

III. Speak to the Mountain

- A. When we have the faith of God, we speak to the mountain and it moves.
 1. When we have the faith of God, this gift of faith on our inside, we are empowered to speak to the mountain. I think we forget that it is Christ in us the hope of glory!
- B. To often we try to speak/confess but we are not in the place of faith or we start the speaking before we start the believing.
- C. Jesus lives in me. Therefore, if I die to myself then His faith gets expressed.
- D. Do the impossible release the faith of God in your life.
 1. “NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].” (Hebrews 11:1, AMP) Faith given to us to:
 - a) accomplish His will for our lives
 - b) to manifest Christ in us.
 - c) to overcome every attack of the enemy.
 - d) to minister to the sick and desperate of this life.
 - e) to overcome every trial that would come our way.
 - f) to draw on the very life of God in this life.
 2. Draw you faith from Jesus the author and finisher of your faith!