

Faith

26 June 2011

We need faith to start living the life of a disciple. When we say Jesus is Lord, we have gotta step out in faith and take God at His Word. To turn our back on the world and become part of God's family – we gotta have faith. We gotta have Faith to live the life that Jesus calls us to live. We need faith to make it to the end.

Our level of faith is a very relevant indicator of how we doing spiritually ...

1 Thessalonians 3: 1 - 10

Context - what happened in the church...

Paul, Silas and Timothy, 2nd missionary journey, as was their custom ...

3 Sabbath Days reasoned – Jews, Greeks and not a few prominent women responded...

Jews became jealous – stirred up a crowd...rounded up some bad characters...

When looking for Paul and his companions...could not find him drag Jason and some other guys off

At night the brother's sent Paul, Silas and Timothy away.

What do you think it must have been like in the church?

- Young group of disciples
- Leader's are gone
- Persecution had broken out
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Paul writes letter of 1 Thessalonians shortly after this, into this situation...

We see so much of Paul's heart here...

Sent Timothy to see how the church is doing, how are the disciples– v. 5 - Paul looking for faith.

v.7 – we were encouraged about you because of your faith.

v.10 – We desire to come to you so we can supply what is lacking in your faith.

Paul understood something about faith – that was also very evident in the life of Jesus.

Jesus was very perceptive about people's level of faith.

Roman Centurion in **Matthew 8** – Jesus was astonished, 'I tell you the truth I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith'

Mark 6 – Jesus was amazed at people's lack of faith. And he couldn't do any miracles there....

What would Jesus and Paul's perspective of your faith be today?

Would they be astonished?

Would they be encouraged?

Share about me ... earlier this year. Became very matter of fact. Over analytical. Put God in a box – my memories were greater than my dreams.

What about you ?

Faith is the well from which many things flow:

Obedience – Noah : ‘Noah did everything just as God commanded him’

Abraham in **Gen 12** – leave your family and country + with Isaac **Gen 22** – Abraham reasoned God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking he did receive Isaac back from the dead.

Initiative – Jonathan and his armour bearer – **1 Samuel 14**

‘nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few’

Courage and Boldness – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to rescue us from your hand O King. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set-up.’

Perseverance and Determination – Apostle’s

Acts 4 and 5

‘Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.’

Share about campus ministry ...

- Amazing to see how God has worked in our campus ministry – last 7 months, 4 people baptised.
- This semester, studied the bible with about 80 people, that’s a fair amount of people – you hope, you pray with people, pray for people – then when they don’t make it can be discouraging
- But what we have decided as a campus ministry – we wanna keep going, whether people respond or not – we gonna keep being fishers of men, we gonna keep reaching out.

Hebrews 11 – great chapter that explains the lives men and woman were able to live because of their faith...

Hebrews 12: 1 – 3

- Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith
- If we want to be men and woman of great faith – let us fix our eyes on Jesus
- Let’s finish the race marked out for us – let’s not grow weary...
- Let’s us look at the cross and be inspired about how Jesus was obedient, his boldness and his perseverance
- Let us look at the resurrection and be inspired by God’s power and lets have faith that we to can live resurrected lives

Let’s be men and woman of great faith!