

When Faith Doesn't "Work"

Insights from Hebrews 11
Pastor Bob Johnson, April 26th, 2020

The Bible's Working Definition of Faith:

Trusting God enough to ...

(Hebrews 11:1-40)

"Faith Facts" I didn't learn in Sunday School:

1. Faith doesn't always "work" in the ... or ...

Hebrews 11:4, Genesis 4:6-8, Hebrews 11:8-13; 20-22,
Revelation 6:9-11, 1 Peter 5:1-4

2. Faith is the ... not the ...

Matthew 3:16-17; 4:1, Psalms 119:104-105, Hebrews 11:32-40,
1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 1:15-17,
2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 11:24-28, 1 Peter 4:19

3. We don't need ... to move ...

Luke 17:3-6

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our second week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in June.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships, pray for each other and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday, Bob shared a few "Faith Facts" he didn't learn in Sunday School growing up.

Speaking of school when we were growing up :) ... looking back what fond memories do you have regarding school?

Who was one of your favorite teachers? Why?

What was one of your favorite school years? Why?

What was your favorite subject? Why?

If you could 'do early school' over ... knowing what you know now, what would you have done different?

Of the three 'Faith Facts' Bob shared that he eventually learned, which one was most thought provoking, surprising or helpful for you to think about?

In what ways has your faith in God changed or developed over the years?

The last of the three was, "We don't need more faith to move our feet to do what God has told us to do." The good news is that God never calls us to do something he doesn't already provide the power to do.

When has God prompted you to do something that initially, you were tempted to think you didn't have enough faith to attempt it?

Reflecting more on a few verses from last Sunday:

Look back over the message outline and the Biblical references that were shared.

Choose a few of the passages to re-read and reflect on.

What further encouragement, insights or questions do you have from re-reading them?

Digging Deeper:

There is no question that at times it can seem like our faith in God isn't working. Fortunately for us, God remains the same.

Remembering who he is, how he works and what he's done is all part of keeping perspective in life's ever-changing expectations.

What hope, promise and/or directive to live by do the following verses give us as we deal with life's circumstances as a Christ follower?

1 Peter 1:3-6

Proverbs 3:5-8

Romans 8:15-18

Psalms 147:11

1 Corinthians 10:11-13

Romans 15:13

2 Peter 1:3-11

Reflecting back at what you processed from these passages, which verses would be most beneficial for you to remember and reflect on for the next few weeks?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's pray for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?