

STAND ALONE



STORIES OF THE KINGDOM

STAND ALONE 2: OUR FAITH + GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

May 5, 2019

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"We all live by faith to some extent. We simply cannot verify everything. We have to trust others, someone. The question is: are they trustworthy? Our hope, our faith rests in God's faithfulness. His trustworthiness."

-Pastor Randy

TEXT(S):

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:8-16)

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:16-25)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Our faith is not in faith itself. Faith depends upon an object, the faithfulness of someone or something. As Christians, God is the object of our faith. We deem him faithful because we have experienced his character for ourselves, or through the testimony of others, including the authors of Scripture. As a result, our faith is rooted in a faithful God. God can't help but be faithful. Even if we lose faith, God remains faithful; it is rooted in His character. God's pleasure in us is based on His grace, not on our performance. Faith doesn't save us, but faith receives salvation through Jesus Christ crucified.

God's promises and His faithfulness are the basis of our faith. When we believe God, faith leads us to an understanding of our world that we would not have arrived at otherwise. Visible realities, like human rights for example, depend upon the unseen reality that human life is valuable and has dignity. Without an invisible reality, there is no foundation for a visible ethical reality like the rights and dignity of all human beings. You can't have your own truth about Jesus. The truth about Jesus is historical and is connected to the stories of other believers who have gone before.

Faith is not simply psychological, it's also relational. To say, "I love you, but I do not trust you," is missing the core of who God is. Trust, belief, and faith are major themes in Scripture. They invite us to rely on God's faithfulness, putting our faith in God. When we do, he is glorified and shown to be faithful.

A faithful God births hope in our hearts, as he did in Abraham's. When God says something is possible, despite evidence to the contrary, we can believe him. We can hope. And hope breeds a holy discontent – a desire to see God increase His kingdom. There is still work to be done, healing is needed, and deliverance longed for. The Kingdom of God has arrived in its fullness when there is no longer anything that is contrary to the will of God. We can catch glimpses and see that the Kingdom is partially realized. But faith lays hold of that future now, believing to be as real as if it were completely visible now.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
2. Where have you expressed faith, almost without realizing it? Getting on an airplane? Drinking or eating something prepared by someone you don't know? What's that like as you reflect on it?
3. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it has an impact on your life in anyway?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. In Matthew 4, what does Jesus ask his future disciples to do? What does he say he will do for them? Does anything stand out to you about this exchange?
2. In Matthew 9, what does Jesus ask Matthew to do? What does Matthew do in response? Does anything stand out to you about this exchange?
3. In Matthew 9, who does Jesus eat with? Which group of people are upset about this? What is Jesus' response?
4. In John 21, what does Peter decide to do? Why do you think he decided to do that? Is he successful at it? Why do you think he got the results he did?
5. In John 21, what is Peter's response when he realizes it's Jesus he's been talking to? Why do you think Peter reacts in this way?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. In Hebrews 11, how is faith defined?
2. In Hebrews 11, how is faith illustrated?
3. Randy said that one of the great enemies of faith is complacency.
Where do you see this portrayed in Scripture?
4. Abraham obeyed even when he didn't know where he was going.
Why do you think he packed up and left the place he was in?
5. In Hebrews 11, where was the attention of those mentioned focused?
6. What do you think Hebrews 11:1 refers to when it says, "what we do not see?"

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What does it mean to grow in faith?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

2. What situations in your own life (past or present) have required putting faith in God's faithfulness?
3. Where are you being challenged in your faith?
4. Randy said that one of the great enemies of faith is complacency.
What areas of complacency in your own life might you need to confess?
5. What promises has God given you?
6. Can you imagine living in a world where God's will is done exclusively?
What would it be like?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Hebrews 11 says that faith begins with hope. What have you scarce allowed yourself to hope for, but which you want to grow in faith to believe God for?
2. To go somewhere starts by leaving. God called Abraham, who went in faith.
Where is God calling you to? Where is God asking you to leave?

NOTE: On the following page you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the 'Gram @charissaburnsstudio

5.5.2019 | Hebrews 11:1-2

Faith

HOPE
≡
LOVE

Faith is essential to our relationship to Christ. Our Faith is in God... He is the object of our faith.

by which we relate with God.

We cannot live without FAITH.

we have faith in the most mundane things.

GOD IS FAITHFUL. not just how He acts, but who He is

↓ Committed • loyal • steadfast • consistent

because he is faithful, we put our trust in Him.

He keeps his PROMISES

keeps his WORD

Nothing God says (is not good or not trustworthy)

Everything God says is 100% true!

GOD IS GREATER THAN THE FACTS.
Live by faith not by sight!!!

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. NLT Hebrews 11:1-2

who have gone before us.

The people who have gone before us are cheering US on! They trusted and it WORKED!!!

We can look back and see a path of faith, but the Holy Spirit pulls us to look forward and HAVE FAITH in the things we can't see and hope for... God isn't done here yet!

When we live in God's Kingdom now it becomes real to us.

Faith reaches into the future of the Kingdom of God and gives it substance.

Every human being has inherent dignity from our creator.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. Heb. 11:3

What is the out-workings of your faith?
How is faith acted out/shown in your life?

Hebrews 11:8-12 Abraham & Sarah received promises & had faith.

Abraham went by faith! He didn't know where the Lord was leading.

Faith is preceded by a promise.

I can't go on a journey with God unless I leave!

FAITH GOES BEYOND THE FACTS!

There is a greater law at work