

**ROLL-IN VIDEO: Indiana Jones.**

*Why do we take a “leap of faith”?*

**1. Because it is an adventure.**

Did you ever jump off a roof or a cliff into a river? Why? the rush!

Faith is like that. It is the adventure of getting beyond ourselves and watching God do something supernatural.

**2. To help someone else.**

Firefighters run into buildings other people are running out of. Why? to help!

Faith is like that. We pray, give, serve, because we want to reach people who can't help themselves.

**3. To escape disaster.**

Watched video on 9-11, people jumping out of the 100 story towers. Why? Escape fire.

Faith is like that. Sometimes we have to jump into God and trust Him because He is all we have.

Next few weeks we are going to look at faith. Why we need it, how it grows, how it is used.

Today we are going to start with why we need faith.

**1. We need faith to please God.**

***And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb. 11:6***

Everyday people try to do the impossible. Live a religious life trying to please God without faith.

Parents understand we want our children to trust us. Even when they don't understand or know why we make some of the decisions we do on their behalf. We love them and we want them to grow up to be healthy.

***But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." Heb. 10:38***

## **2. We need faith to live.**

Every day we trust systems and institutions and people without even thinking about.

ILL. While driving we trust person in oncoming land. Girl who hit us from behind.

***"The righteous will live by faith." Rom. 1:17***

This verse launched the reformation when Martin Luther realized that faith was not about doing stuff to somehow please God, but it was trusting in a relationship with God and what Jesus had done by taking our place on the cross. Not works to appease and angry God but trust in a loving God.

Because of a lack of understanding that we relate to God as His children rather than foreigners and sinners we tend to not use faith except in a crisis. I call this "Spare Tire Faith".

Not sure where it is or how it works and hope we never need to use it.

It is sad to think that many people who say they are Christians would rather God not bother them but just be there in a crisis, and they wonder why their life moves from crisis to crisis. If this is the only way God can be involved in your life He will let the crisis come.

It is an indictment when we call ourselves:

- "believers" and don't believe.
- "Christians" and were not like Christ.
- "Disciples" and were not disciplined.

God calls us to live a life beyond the natural. How you doing? "super-naturally."

Doesn't mean we will not face problems and challenges in life.

***We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7***

Not Christian Science that denies reality of problem. Instead we look to God.

***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. <sup>20</sup>Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. Rom. 4:19-21***

ILL – My grandmother very ill in St. Louis when I was in Colorado.

### **3. We need faith for answered prayer.**

Nervous prayers vs. prayer of faith.

Story of George Mueller.

Mueller was traveling ocean liner to speak at church conference in Quebec. The ship encountered heavy fog and came to a stop. Mueller found the captain and said, "I must be in Quebec by Saturday, I have never missed and engagement to preach in 57 years."

"Mr. Mueller do know how dense this fog is?"

"No, my eye is not on the fog, but on God who controls every circumstance of my life."

He then knelt and said a simple prayer of faith. While he prayer the captain knelt also and began to pray. Mueller said, "As you do not believe, there is no need for you to pray. Get up Captain, open the door and you will find the fog has lifted."

The fog had lifted and Mueller made it in time to preach in Quebec on Saturday.

We need to pray real faith-filled prayer expressing our confidence in God.

**VIDEO CLIP: Bruce Almighty**

***“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup>“I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. <sup>24</sup>Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:22-24***

I prayed for my dad for 20 years and five hours before he died I lead him to Christ.

Most of our prayers are like the label I read on a medicine bottle: 5% active, 95% inert ingredients.

#### **4. We need faith to resist the attacks of the enemy.**

***Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith... 1 Pet. 5:8-9***

Smith Wigglesworth was an illiterate plumber in London in the early 1900's. He was radically transformed by God and became incredibly bold in his faith. One day at a bus stop with several other people he watched a older sophisticated lady leave her house and realized her little dog was following her. She spoke gently to the dog and urged him to go back home. The dog just stood there. She said in a firmer voice, “honey you need to go back.” And the dog turned away. But as soon as she turned her back the dog proceeded to follow her again. Finally after several more attempts, she stomped her foot with authority sand said, “Scat!” The dog tucked his tail between his legs and took off running for home. Without hesitation Wigglesworth shouted, “that it, that’s how you have to deal with the devil!”

***take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Eph. 6:16***

#### **Summarize:**

- We need faith to please God.
- We need faith to live.
- We need faith for answered prayer.
- We need faith to resist the enemy.

## **Steps of faith**

Do you trust or have faith in God?

What areas of your life do you find it most difficult in which to trust God?

What area of your life do you feel you are under attack and need to apply faith?

## **Announce:**

Next week is Mother's Day. Come and we'll have a gift for mom.