

LEAP 3 – How Faith Grows or Is Activated

Week 1 we spoke our need for faith. We need faith to please God, live a super-natural life, see our prayers answered and stay the attacks of the Devil.

Week 2 we discussed what faith is. Faith is complete trust in God's character, in His Word, in spite of circumstances.

Intro: We don't need more faith.

God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Rom. 12:3

Faith does come by asking for it, creates a dilemma. Asking for faith presupposes you don't have any. Since the prerequisite for answered prayer is faith you have a catch 22.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

The disciples did ask for greater faith, Luke 17:5 (Right after teaching on forgiveness).

He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Luke 17:6

So, how is faith activated?

1. Faith is activated by hearing the Word of God

faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

hearing = akoe, "spending extended time in someone's presence."

Word = Rhema, "a specific Word for a specific situation from God"

Faith begins where the will of God is known. You cannot know God's will unless you know His Word. You cannot know God's Word unless you read it.

I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ⁵Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Gal. 3:2,5

Every year Jack Nicklaus went back to Jack Clout to start from the beginning with his grip, his stance, his swing.

The first day of football camp Vince Lombardi would walk on the field of veterans and rookies and say, “gentlemen, this is a football.”

Curtis Strange, the professional golfer was interviewed by a young girl who asked what it was like to have such a gift to play golf. Incensed, he said, “I go out every day and 1,000 golf balls and then my hands start to ramp and bleed from my blisters and then I go and tape them up and hit another 1,000 balls.

We have to deconstruct the unbelief in us and trust in ourselves. Rom. 12:2
Chucky training dog who stayed with us.

How does this work in relationship to faith? You get CD’s, mp3 player and put on messages of faith. Get the bible on CD or mp3 and listen to it going down the road.

I have spent hundreds of hours just listening to good teaching and the Bible as a walk or lay in bed, or drive down the road.

That’s the way faith is developed. Another way is...

2. Faith is activated when you make a decision to believe.

Have to get out of the boat. You have to mix God’s Word with faith.

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Heb. 4:2

“combine it” greek word “kerannumi” means “a mixing of two compounds, so that when they are blended form a new substance.”

Mix highly reactive sodium with a dangerous gas chlorine what do you have?
Salt.

Example: Oil & water can look mixed but it goes back to its original condition.
The oil has not penetrated the water or vice-versa.

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. James 1:6-8

3. Faith is activated by meditating on God’s Word.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:2-3

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8

Meditation with your mouth means to murmur or mumble. Speak to yourself.

Cow preachers versus chicken preachers.

The enemy is always lying to you about your situation. Your mind gets full of doubt, unbelief, worry, fear, etc.. Meditating on God’s Word causes you to make a choice as to what you are going focus on God’s truth or the Devil’s lies.

I am amazed at how many people will pray and ask God for something and say they believe, then turn around tell others the opposite. That is not faith.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, 2 Cor. 4:13

You stay in faith and keep speaking until you see it come to pass. No matter how long.

Bamboo tree in China shows no growth for 5 years. In the sixth year it grows 90' in six weeks. On some days it will grow 3'.

No matter how long it takes you stay in faith and you encourage others to do the same.

The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back. Isaiah 50:4-5

We are in a series on faith. But faith is useless if Christ is not the center of your life.

Lets use the metaphor of driving a car. The car goes where the driver steers it. In the same way your life is controlled by who is behind the wheel and where it is being guided.

There are four places Christ can be in relationship to your life.

1. Someone you see along the road of life you pass a few times a year?
2. An acquaintance who rides in the back seat and has to duck when your friends are around?
3. A friend riding alongside ready to take the wheel in case of extreme emergency?
4. Is Jesus driving?

The Bible says "there is a way (or road) that seems right to man but ends in destruction."

Worship, singing out is making declarations of faith. When we sing we are saying prayers, we are declaring what we are believing life to be.