



TWCC Sermon Connection Handout

Sunday, December 8th, 2019

Sermon Series: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

Sermon Title: Big Hinderances to Fighting the Good Fight of Faith – Part 1

Opening Scripture Text: 1 John 5:1 - 5 (KJV) – *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. ⁴For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

- We shared last week that Faith is our _____! The experience of _____ is done through the exercise of our _____ in God.
- _____ is a lifestyle based upon a relationship with God (His Faithfulness, His Honor, His Love and Goodness) and His Word (The Revealed, Higher Truth of His Unchanging Word). **FAITH** is a confident **ACT** of believe, boldly speaking and acting upon the Word of God. **FAITH** is simply your belief in **ACTION**.

WHY FAITH?

Romans 1:17 (NKJV) - *“¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

- **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)** – *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*
- We are not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, nor ashamed to live a lifestyle of _____.
- It is the way we are supposed to _____ as born-again believer and Christ follower.
- **1st Big Why? - FAITH IS HOW OUR FATHER _____.**
 - He doesn’t function through or by fear or unbelief. Faith is not optional; it is required and mandatory.
- **Read Hebrews 11:5 – 6 (NKJV)**
- **2nd Big Why? - FAITH IS WHAT _____ OUR FATHER GOD.**
- God is not pleased when we are not _____, and He is not pleased when we are not _____.
- We should allow the Word of God to reshape so that everything we do is _____ faith, _____ faith and _____ faith. Read Galatians 2:16, 20 – 21 (NKJV).
- If we don’t live by _____ it frustrates the grace of God. (**Read Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**)
- **Romans 5:2 (NKJV) and Ephesians 3:12 (NKJV)** - *“In whom we have boldness and **access with confidence through faith** in Him.”*
- **3rd Why? - FAITH GIVES _____ TO WHAT GRACE HAS GIVEN.**

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH!

- We are here to learn how to: walk by faith, talk by faith and respond by faith - in other words, we do things like God does it - by _____!
- **1 Timothy 5:12 (NKJV)** - *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*
- The *only* option to _____ fighting the good fight of faith is to be **destroyed** and **defeated**. It is our decision to fight or not. Faith is a FORCE; Faith is a choice!
- Living by FAITH entails and involves _____. If you're not **FIGHTING** you may not be in FAITH.
- **2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV)** - *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*
- We _____ to overcome our (1) _____ (2) our _____ (3) any **UNBELIEF** or (4) **DISOBEDIENCE** when it comes to our Father God's Will and Work in our lives; acknowledging and accessing WHO we are in Christ and WHAT we possess in Him and acting obediently as ordered upon His Holy Word. And, we _____ to get, stay and stand in _____ during the *troubling, trying, tense, transitional* and *turbulent* seasons and situations of our lives.

BIG HINDRANCES TO FAITH

- If there is a _____ to faith, then there must be enemies or _____ to faith.
 - **Romans 10:17 (KJV)** - *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”*
 - Lack of _____ come from lack of knowledge of God's Word. Why? Because _____ is based upon knowledge - revealed knowledge of God and His Word. _____ is not just based on information - but revelation knowledge - higher, advanced, spiritual knowledge - of God and His Word.
 - Where are _____ stops, our _____ stops. _____ begins where the Will of God is known - spiritually known.
 - A lack of knowledge will _____ us and hold us in bondage because we cannot ACT upon God's Word beyond actual knowledge of God's Word. **IF YOUR FAITH IS NOT GROWING, THEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD IS NOT GROWING!**
 - **HINDERANCE #1: LACK OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE NEW _____**
 - The first hinderance to faith is lack of understanding of what it means to be a new creation (creature) in Christ, or a lack of understanding of what the new creation means.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)** - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*
 - A lack of understanding of what the new creation is and what it means to be a new creature can _____ the believer's faith life. Unfortunately, many believer's do not know that they are new creatures, new creations in Christ - new in kind, new in quality, a brand-new species of being. They think and believe God just forgave them of their sins.
 - **Read 2 Peter 1:4.** We receive the life of God, the nature of God and the ability of God in us - our newborn, recreated human spirit! We are new creatures, created by God in Christ Jesus, with the very life and nature of God in our spirits (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). We are children of God, sons of God, and heirs of God - joint heirs with Jesus Christ (**Read Romans 8:17**).
 - Many people don't know that they have _____ LIFE. They think of themselves only as being saved from sin. **Read 1 John 5:13 (NKJV)**
 - **HINDERANCE #2: LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF OUR _____ IN CHRIST.**
 - The second hinderance to faith is a lack of understanding of our _____ in Christ and of Christ's place in our lives. For example read **1 John 4:4 (NKJV)** and **Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)** and **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**.
 - **HINDERANCE #3: LACK OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING OUR _____**
 - The third hinderance to faith is a lack of understanding of _____ - what it is and what it gives to the believer. A lack of understanding of righteousness holds more people in bondage than anything else.
 - **Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** and **James 5:16 (NKJV)** and **1 John 1:9 (NKJV)**
 - As God's Righteousness we are to and should _____ the bountiful fullness of God.
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