

☞ Components of Faith

We walk by faith when we listen carefully to God and do what he says in spite of what we may see in the natural. We trust God completely to fulfill his promises. Our faith can grow as we study the word, pray and ask God for more.

Faith can face the facts and even doubt, but still chooses to believe. Faith does not falter, always believing that God will somehow work things out. Faith is fully persuaded – God can and will do what he has promised. We want to be people of faith.

Matthew 14:25-33

1. ☞ Faith requires confidence in your calling

v. 28-29a – **Jesus called Peter out of the boat.**

Remember, the key to walking in faith is to listen. What is God saying to you? What is his ☞ calling for you? Even in basic discipleship **Jesus says, “come, follow me.”**

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when called to go... obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Abraham went from the familiar to the unfamiliar. Peter went from safety to great risk. God often calls us to leave our comfort zone and step out into new territory. Our comfort zone could be circumstances that we've grown accustomed to. Sometimes, we wish things were different, but when it comes right down to it, the familiar, no matter how difficult, is more comfortable than the unknown. Your comfort zone could be a matter of style or method. “This is the way it's always been done” can be a death sentence for a step of faith. Stepping out in faith will require risk.

☞ **God calls us out of our comfort zones...** Gideon was a coward who was used to being the least. God called him to be brave and lead. Moses had a life of luxury in Pharaoh's palace, but God called him to lead the Israelites out of bondage. David was just a young shepherd, but God called him to be a warrior king. The disciples were simple fishermen, but Jesus called them to follow him and be fishers of men.

The callings for all of these people meant change. Change is often scary, but we can trust God. If he is leading us, we are in good hands. We can have confidence in his call.

Joshua 21:45

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

☞ Psalms 145:13

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

2 Corinthians 1:20

no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

--Emily Palsma... Faith like a child. While talking to Blessing about our special church service of healing tonight, and how I was believing God had healed me, she starts her own little sermon. "Of course, Mom. You can pray to God for anything, and He will do it. If you pray to God to heal you, then you are gonna be healed. And even, like, if you really need more money, or even a new car, God can do that, too, Mom. Remember? It's like with Noah, on the ark. Afterward, God promised He would never flood the earth again. And has He, Mom? No, He hasn't. Because God keeps His promises. And He promised to take care of us." Not a single doubt in her voice. Just 100%, matter-of-fact, unquestioned truth.

Faith requires confidence in your calling.

2. ☞ Faith requires courage in your conduct

v. 29b **Peter got down out of boat during a stormy night** which took courage.

Dad's rat trap illustration. If I'm here saying it will be okay then you can trust me, and the trap won't get you. That's confidence in the calling. But to actually put your hand in the trap requires courage...

☞ Fear is the opposite of faith. **Faith is basically obeying God without knowing all the details, and that takes courage.** And the opposite of obedience is rebellion. Rebellion is all about doing what I want to do regardless of what God may be saying. Faith, like obedience, requires action.

☞ James 2:18

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will **show you my faith by what I do**

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when called to go... obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Going to a land that God will show us is basically stepping out into a future that only God knows about. The future may look bleak and dim, and the circumstances may not meet our expectations, but if God calls us we must be willing to go. In such times we need to take to heart Jeremiah 29:11 which says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares

the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future"

☞ **FAITH = Fantastic Adventures In Trusting Him**

Faith requires courage in your conduct.

3. ☞ **Faith requires concentration on Christ**

v. 30 Peter looked at the wind – **he sank when he looked away.** Peter was exercising his faith with great results until he took his eyes off of the Lord.

☞ **Hebrews 12:2**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

Like a dog watching a play ball ready to be thrown.

Hebrews 11:9-10

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he ☞ lived in tents... **10** For he was **looking forward** to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Since he was in strange, unfamiliar territory he had to keep his eyes on the Lord. He saw past his circumstances to the preferable future that God had promised.

--DL Moody... Take courage. We walk in the wilderness today and in the Promised Land tomorrow.

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and ☞ **straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Faith requires concentration on Christ.

Conclusion

There's confidence in the calling; there's courage in your conduct; and there's concentration on Christ. The power of faith comes with the combination of God's call and my courage (faith in action). Some emphasize the courage component while neglecting the calling... "Just believe and be bold." But, what are you believing? Is it something God promised or is it just wishful thinking? Without God's call, my courage is meaningless. It's the combination of the two that works. When I've heard clearly from the Lord and then

act courageously on it, that's when it really works. And it's the concentration component that keeps it working for the long haul.

My personal call to lead pastor. Part of the reason for a lengthy season of listening was to insure my confidence in the call. Once I had the confidence it was easier to step out with courage in my conduct and begin obeying the call and working as a lead pastor. Now, to keep things working right, I have to concentrate on Christ. If not, I lose courage in my conduct or my confidence in the call. These three components make faith complete.

☞ **God has given a calling to BOBC.** Some of what we envision for the future is simply about things we want... We want to have the best kids and youth programs in the area. We want to raise up leaders, ministers and missionaries. We want to be a warm and friendly church with real unity. These are all good things and even biblical. But there are some things that God has specifically spoken for BOBC...

☞ In 1994 a guest minister prophesied that our church would **continue to grow** and be a place where people would come and get refreshed with something genuine from the Lord.

In 2002 another guest minister prophesied that there would be a new level of authority

☞ in praying for the sick and a great **revival** will flow from this church.

☞ In 2004 a guest minister prophesied that God has **more in store** for us and he is taking us one step at a time.

In 2007 Naomi and I were visiting a church and a person prophesied to us that revival

☞ would come out of this place and that we would experience **God in power**.

In 2017 at a conference, during altar ministry the speaker prophesied to us that God has

☞ something in store for us that is **more than we have ever imagined**.

And in 2018 a friend prophesied to me that we would be a church that releases people into ministry and would be a hub for all the ministry God has in mind. And he

☞ concluded with the words, "there are **greater things** in store."

I have these things on record with specific dates to remind myself of what God has promised specifically to us. These reminders encourage my confidence in the call. And as some of these things begin to happen it emboldens me to have courage in my conduct. I don't want to lose sight of what God has said and where God is leading, so I try hard to concentrate on Christ and keep moving forward with him. What about you?

Let's be people of faith with...

☞ **Confidence in our Calling.**

Courage in our Conduct.

Concentration on Christ.