

Finding Freedom in Christ

Faith



Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Faith is not thinking the right things or giving the correct answers. Faith does not necessarily mean proof of something. Notice that Hebrews says that faith is the “*evidence/proving/conviction* of things not seen.” Evidence means that you have reason to believe, you have seen something strengthens your trust. Faith also goes beyond belief. Faith is not an issue of the mind, it is an action that comes as a response to a belief.

Faith involves risk. Risk means that you do not know what the future will hold, you do not know what the outcome of an action will be. You may feel comfortable with a decision/action and may have good evidence to support it but we cannot know the future. Faith comes when we take our belief and do something with it.

As we walk by faith and God shows His faithfulness then our belief turns to knowledge.

What does faith look like?

Blood on the doorpost

Exodus Chapters 11 -12

Just before the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, before the Israelites are led out of Egypt, God tells Moses to tell the people to kill a ram and shed its blood on their doorpost so that they will not die when the Lord passes over. The supreme god of the Egyptians was the ram god Amun-Re. The Israelites were taking a massive risk in shedding the blood of an animal that was worshiped by the Egyptians. Often, because we know the rest of the story, we can lose sight of the fear and troubling questions the Israelites must have struggled with in taking this step of faith, but they painted anyway.

Will the waters hold?

Exodus chapter 14

After the Israelites left Egypt and came to the red sea they saw that Pharaoh and his army was pursuing them. When they saw this they said “*it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.*” Notice how people are not much different today. Time and time again we are shown miracles of God's faithfulness and provisions, yet, as soon as hardship or trouble comes along we immediately resort to despair and a what-have-you-done-for-me-lately mentality. Nonetheless God is faithful once again and he causes the Red Sea to be parted. A tremendous step of faith is required for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea. Again, we know how the the story goes, but for a people running across this dry land with massive walls of water on each side not knowing if they will hold, faith in what God has promised is required in order to make it across.

Will God remain true to his word?

Genesis chapter 22

God tells Abraham to offer his only son Isaac as a burnt offering. Aside from the unimaginable difficulty of the thought of sacrificing your only son, God had promised Abraham that he would multiply Abraham and his descendants and that he would many nations from him (Gen 17). How was God going to greatly multiply Abraham's descendants if he kills his only child? The question we must wrestle with is: will God still keep his promise when it seems like everything is going the wrong direction? Often we have a tendency to plan ahead what God is showing us, God has revealed a path to us and we want to decide the next hundred miles. It takes a tremendous step of faith to continue in the promises of God when things don't seem as if they are going the way we have planned them.

A step of rest.

Though faith requires stepping out into the unknown and leaning on the promises of God and the truth of our identity and freedom in Christ, we must ask ourselves if we are willing to take the step of faith and rest in the finished work of Christ. Do we trust the grace of God enough to rest in His grace. Do we truly believe that we are saved by the power of the cross and the resurrection and that our works do cannot merit freedom? So often we try to do and do and do because we think we can earn freedom.

Do we trust that God will remain true to his word?

Do we trust and can we walk in faith that the waters will hold?

Can we rest in the fact that there is blood on the doorpost of our hearts?

Ephesians 1:3 *“Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”*

“For Christianity does not begin with a big DO, but with a big DONE [...] and we are invited at the very outset to sit down and enjoy what God has done for us; not to set out to try and attain it for ourselves.” (Watchman Nee, Sit Walk Stand)