

You Don't Need More Faith!

DEFINING TERMS

- Biblical belief is not just **INTELLECTUAL** belief, it's **LIFE CHANGING** belief.
John 1:12 & 3:16 James 2:19 1 John 2:3-5
- Biblical faith can be **OPTIMISTIC** or **PESSIMISTIC**, but it's ALWAYS **OBEDIENT**.
Hebrews 11:6 Acts 12:1-16
- Doubt is not the **OPPOSITE** of faith, **DISOBEDIENCE** is the opposite of faith.
James 1:5-8 Acts 12:1-16 James 2:17

THE PASSAGE

Luke 17:3-10

THE "MUSTARD SEED" PRINCIPLE

Why You Don't Need More Faith

- (1) Faith is measured by what I **DO**, not what I **FEEL**.
Hebrews 11:6 James 2:14-26 Genesis 22:18
- (2) Faith is only as **POWERFUL** as the **OBJECT** it's placed in.
Luke 17:5-6
- (3) Faith doesn't **RESCUE** us. It **GUIDES** us.
Hebrews 11:37-40
- (4) Ultimately, faith is simply trusting God enough to **DO WHAT HE SAYS**.
Hebrews 11:6 Proverbs 3:5-7 James 2:21-26

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 25, 2016

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...

- ⇒ Go way back in time and meet your ancestors (pre-1800's) or go way into the future and meet your great-grandchildren (post 2200)?
- ⇒ Have no Internet or no mobile phone?
- ⇒ Have a five-star restaurant personal chef who can prepare any meal at any time of day or a chauffeur that can drive you to and from anywhere you want in any vehicle of your choice?

2. What do you eat more of - hamburgers, burritos or salads?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard the good news that doubt does not necessarily mean a person lacks faith. With that said, doubt often times can do one of two things – it either causes us to seek God, ultimately instilling a greater belief in what he can do, or it leaves us stuck in our own lack of movement or disobedience, wondering if God will really show up. How might the following verses help build your confidence in God in the midst of doubt?

Psalm 145:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

- ⁹The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
¹⁰All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.

Psalm 25:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

- ⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

Psalm 89:11 *New International Version (NIV)*

- ¹¹The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;
you founded the world and all that is in it.

James 1:17 *New International Version (NIV)*

- ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Looking back at what you wrote, which one do you think people most often forget or don't know about?

Which one is most important for you to remember?

2. This weekend, Larry told us that faith is simply trusting God enough to do what he says. Throughout the Bible, God provides us with motivation to do what he says and continue on! What motivations do you find in the following passages to keep obeying and pushing forward?

1 Corinthians 15:58 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Hebrews 12:1-3 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Which one of these passages is the most motivating to you?

3. It's often during times of hardship and challenge that we want God to rescue us and are most often tempted to doubt his plan. But the Bible teaches that hardships can play an important role in developing our faith. How do the following passages help us understand the role of hardship and the attitude God wants us to have toward it?

Romans 5:3-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

James 1:2-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 8:28 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Can you think of any examples from your own life where knowing what these passages say helped your faith be a "life changing belief"? If so, please explain.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what's the most important thing to remember?
2. Are there any doubts that are tripping you up or hindering your faith?
3. Do you have any prayer requests you'd like to share with your group?

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.



REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience” - Oct. 28-30

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic man's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as a man following God. The weekend will also include plenty of man event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Register online at northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend

[weekend](http://northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend)

* **The Smart Step-Family Class** - learn how to navigate life within a blended family. Mondays, Oct. 10 – Nov. 7 (4 weeks), 6:30-9pm. For more information and to register, go to northcoastchurch.com/classes