

The Life of Faith Pt3

by Phil Beach Jr.

This sermon emphasizes the importance of faith in pleasing God and living a life that obeys God's Word, highlighting the characteristics of faith and the difference between faith and unbelief.

Duration: 57:31

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-6, Hebrews 11:6-16, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 John 5:19

Topics: "Faith", "Obedience to God"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the critical role of faith in pleasing God, referencing Hebrews 11:6, which states that without faith, it is impossible to please Him. He explains that the world is under the power of the wicked one due to a lack of faith, leading people to pursue their own desires instead of God's will. Beach contrasts the faith of biblical figures like Noah and Abraham with the faithlessness of Adam and Eve, urging believers to seek a living faith that enables them to trust and obey God's Word. He calls for a faith that not only believes but also acts, leading to a life that reflects a commitment to God's promises and a rejection of worldly temptations. Ultimately, he challenges the congregation to examine their faith and seek a deeper relationship with God.

Transcript

Okay, turn your Bibles, if you would, to Hebrews 11.6. Hebrews 11.6, as we had mentioned several weeks ago, Hebrews 11.6, it says, But without faith it is impossible to please Him. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. There is a battle going on, and it is a battle against faith, a faith that enables you and I and anyone else who possesses it to believe the Word of God, to hang our lives upon the Word of God, and to obey the Word of God.

We are obeying something today. We are giving our allegiance over to something today. It might be our own desires.

It might be a dream to be whatever it might be. We are obeying something or someone today, and God wants us to have a faith that enables us to believe Him. The scripture says, Without faith it's impossible to please God.

You or I cannot please God this morning or any time unless there is a living faith in us enabling us to believe and trust in God and what He has done. So therefore, since it is impossible to please God without faith, therefore the enemy would want to take the faith that we have, and he'd want to destroy it. Thank

you, Michael.

He'd want to destroy the faith because he knows that if we don't have a faith that enables us and strengthens us and encourages us to hang our life upon the Word of God, then in fact we are not pleasing God. We're not pleasing God. It doesn't matter what we're doing.

It doesn't matter what we're engaged in. It doesn't matter how much religious activity we're involved in, for without faith it is impossible to please God. Now we've looked in 1st John chapter 5, 1st John chapter 5, and this gives us the state of the whole world today.

And these things have been made so very real to my heart. 1st John chapter 5 verse 19. It says, And we know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the power of the wicked one.

The whole world is under the power of the wicked one. The reason why the whole world is under the power of the wicked one is because there is no faith in the world, beloved. There's no faith in the world.

There's no faith. The world does not have a faith that enables them to obey the Word of God. The world does not have a faith that enables them to believe the Word of God.

Instead, the world is following their own ways, their own desires. So as a result, all that is in the world, and we know that's in 1st John chapter 2 verse 15 through 17, 1st John chapter 2 verse 15 through 17. It says, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.

If any man loved the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lusts thereof.

But he that doeth the will of God abides forever. All of these scriptures, 1st John chapter 5, 1st John chapter 2, is the condition of the world, and it's because of no faith. So what you and I have to pray that God will do in our life is give us faith.

Give us faith to hang our lives upon the Word of God, to hang our lives upon the Lord Jesus Christ. A living faith, not a dead faith. A faith that produces in us the power to truly obey God.

Now you remember last week we went into Genesis chapter 3. We're not going to go extensively into it because we did last week, but I will mention in Genesis chapter 3 verses 3 through 6. Let's read it again. Genesis chapter 3 verses 3 through 6. The reason why the world is faithless. This is the reason why there's no faith in the world.

Genesis 3 verses 3 through 6. Actually we'll begin in verse 1. Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of the tree of the garden. And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the garden which is in the midst or of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and you shall be as gods knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was pleasant to the eyes and the tree to be desired to make one wise, she took up the fruit thereof and did eat and gave it also unto her husband with her.

And he did eat in this portion of scripture. We see that Satan seduced Eve and Adam from the essential heart condition of having faith in what God said to make it as simple as we can, since we're not gonna go into it real deeply. Now we went into it last week.

The serpent came and convinced Adam and Eve not to trust what God said, but to take things into their own hands and to reach out contrary to what God said and try and get something for themselves. Let me tell you something, beloved. You are never going to benefit yourself, battle yourself, make yourself wise, make yourself more appealing.

You are never going to profit yourself if in fact you reach for something that God has said don't reach for. You'll never do it. You'll never do it.

It is the opposite of faith. Faith enables us to reach for, and we're gonna see that in the next section, because that's really what I want to spend time on this morning. It's so easy to get very detailed on these points that we already talked about and don't want to do that.

So that's why I'm going through quickly. But it's so hard for me to do that because there's so much. You read it every Sunday.

You read it, and it's just there. But the opposite of faith is when we reach out and take things into our own hands contrary to God's word. And we do that so frequently in our lives, don't we? We grasp for something that we know is forbidden because we think it's gonna do something for us.

It's gonna somehow benefit us. What are you grasping for right now that you think is gonna benefit you? But really, it's questionable whether or not the Lord really wants you grasping for it. What are you grasping for? Remember what Eve said? And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes and was to be desired to make one wise.

Oh, how it's true that whenever we take things into our own hands, we ultimately think that it's gonna make us wise. It's gonna benefit us. But that's the lie.

It's not gonna benefit us. Why do kids take drugs? Because they think, they think, hello, why do kids take drugs? Hello? We turned off completely. Hello? Testing 1, 2, 3. Testing 1, 2, 3. Testing 1, 2, 3. Just hold on for a second.

Testing 1, 2, 3, 4. There we go. We got it now, Norman. That's good.

Now, think about this, beloved. Think, please. Think together with me just for a few moments this morning.

Who would grasp for something that they didn't ultimately think was gonna do something good for them, somehow better them? See, this is the ultimate reason why we're grasping. And remember, this is the opposite of faith. He that is strong in faith will not grasp for anything that is forbidden.

He that is strong in faith will not grasp for anything that is not in accord to God's will and God's heart. And therefore, when we're not sure about God's will, we're not grasping anything. We're simply saying, Lord, not my will but Thy will be done.

We're in a posture of heart surrender. So based on just this simple illustration here in Genesis chapter 3, ask yourself, am I a man or a woman with strong faith? Don't base it on what you think. Base it on your actions.

He that is weak in faith is always grasping after something that is not good, not profitable. It's not in God's Word. It's not God's will, but we're grasping after it because we think it's good for us.

It's going to make us wise. It's going to better us. If you think about this, the whole principle that operates in the world today is based on this lie in Genesis 3. Everybody in the world is grasping after things, grasping after money, grasping after looks, grasping after trying to make the physical body look better, grasping after trying to get a better home, grasping after this, grasping after that.

And the whole root cause of it is because in grasping, we think it's going to make us somehow better. But the problem there is that it's not making us better. It's destroying us.

It's killing us. The place that we need to start if we want to be made better is on our knees before a holy God. The place we need to start if we want to be made better is on our knees asking God to give us understanding in his word.

There's nothing in the world that's going to better you. There's nothing that the world offers that is ultimately going to make you wise. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and to depart from evil.

That is what makes a man wise. So if you want to be wise, don't grasp after things that the world is offering you, but rather fear God and seek his will and you'll be wise. So essentially the reason why the world is faithless is because we are grasping after that which is not according to God's thought, not according to God's will, supposing that it's going to give us something good and make us wise and ultimately it's destroying us and it's leading us into a mess.

It's destroying our lives, our marriages, our homes, our schools. It's destroying our towns and our societies. The whole thing is rooted in that principle.

Now turn your Bibles, if you would please, to the Hebrews again and what we want to look at for a few moments is the call to live by faith. If we've seen first of all that the whole world is under the power of the wicked one and then secondly we saw the reason why the world is faithless is because we have been deceived in taking things into our own hands and not obeying God's Word and that results in grasping for stuff that we think is going to make us better and good and is going to complete us when in fact it destroys us. Why are young people seeking to have inordinate relationships with their peers? Why is there such a desire? Because young people feel that they're not complete unless they're doing that and it's not true.

Fornication is a sin. Sexual impurity is a sin. You shouldn't be after it.

Don't believe the lie. You don't need it. You don't need it.

You need God. You don't need anything that God's Word teaches against. So if we've seen that in point two, what is point three here? The call to live by faith.

What we want to look at is faith and what faith does in us when we get faith. We ought to see a growing, growing likeness to the words of the scripture that we're going to read in Hebrews in our own lives. This is the evidence that faith is working in us.

Living faith. In Hebrews chapter 11, Hebrews chapter 11. I've shared this with a number of people throughout the week, but we're going to share it again now.

This is so life-changing. It's so life-changing. Hebrews chapter 11 beginning with verse number 7. We're just going to read from verse 7 down to verse number 16, okay? Then we're going to make a few observations before we close.

Hebrews chapter 11 beginning in verse number 7. Just read carefully or listen carefully as I read and notice all the action that's taking place. It's all stemming from faith. Look what faith does in the lives of men and women.

Watch. By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house by the which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith, Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed and he went out not knowing where he went.

By faith, he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Therefore sprang there even of one and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable. So verses 7 through 12 all teaches something about faith and Genesis chapter 3 verses 1 through 10 teaches something about faithlessness. So let us determine whether there is a living faith in our life and whether that living faith is growing not based on what we think about ourselves but what the Word of God says.

In Genesis 3 the absence of faith moves Eve and Adam to grasp after something that is forbidden by God thinking that it's going to better them, thinking it's going to benefit them, thinking it's going to somehow make them wise. But in Hebrews chapter 11 verses 7 through 12 we see faith working in Noah, we see faith working in Sarah, and this faith moved them to lay hold of the promise of God, to lay hold of the will of God, to lay hold of the Word of God, and to obey what God said in spite of the cost, in spite of how ridiculous it looked, in spite of whatever kind of opposition that came their way. When God began to speak to Noah and warned him in a dream of things that not yet seen, that is God warned Noah in a dream that there was going to come a great flood and it was going to destroy the whole world.

Well now faith working in Noah enabled Noah first of all to move with fear and to obey God's Word in spite of how foolish it was. Now they tell us that it had never rained before, that the water came up from the earth and the form of dew, that it had never rained. So in order for Noah to believe God, he had to really die to what people thought about him.

Let me tell you something, if you have a faith that comes from God, you can't be concerned about what people think of you, because the moment you start believing God's Word to the point where it affects your actions, people are going to think you're weird, people are going to think you're crazy, people are going to think you're off your rocker, and if you have an inordinate desire to be accepted by people and to be loved by people and to be esteemed by people, you'll never be God's man or God's woman, you'll never stand among the warriors of faith in Hebrews chapter 11 who please God, you'll never ever do it, but you'll always always be a teeter-totter Christian and you'll not really please God the way he wants, because only faith working within our life, producing a power by God that enables us to obey His Word is what pleases God. So do you see the difference here between faith and unbelief? Between faith and doubt? This is why we need faith. You say, well how am I going to get faith? Jesus Christ is the author of faith.

If you find this morning as the Word is being preached that you have no faith or you have a little faith, then you look to Jesus and pray, oh God, give me faith, give me more faith. That's only Noah. We could go through each of the characters in the Old Testament and see that a living faith working in their life produced a lifestyle, it produced actions that obeyed the Word of God.

Now that's just Noah, and that's all we're going to use as an example this morning is just one man. Contrast Noah with Eve. God said to Eve, you may eat of all the fruit, all the trees in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, don't eat.

Now if the faith of Noah was in the garden, if Noah happened to be in the garden, and the serpent came to Noah and said, what has God said? And Noah said, let me tell you what God has said. I can eat of all the fruit in this garden, but I can't touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, I can't eat of it. And the serpent would have said to Noah, have God said that? No.

What God knows is that if you eat that, you're going to be like him. Noah would have responded and said, get behind me, devil. I have faith in my heart, and I'm going to believe God, and I'm not going to take this into my own hands.

I'm going to believe what God says. That's what faith does. Faith is not just a mental assent acknowledging I believe God, I believe Jesus, I believe the Bible.

Faith is a living thing that is imparted to us by God, and it affects our decisions. It affects what we do. Faith without works is what? Dead.

Dead. It's dead. Verse number 13.

These all died in faith. Now listen carefully. I want to show you some of the characteristics of faith now.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off. Now listen. The first quality that faith works in us is the ability to see the promise of God.

Hebrews chapter 11 verse number 13. Not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off. When faith is working in our life the way God wants it to, it enables us to see the promise of God.

Number two. Not only did they see the promise of God, but the scripture says, and were persuaded of them. So we see that faith is growing in us, and it enables us not only to see the promise of God, but we become persuaded of the promise of God.

But not only do we become persuaded of the promise of God, having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them. So you see what happens when faith is working in us, and we are being nurtured by the Lord Jesus Christ, and we're feeding on the word of God, and we're feeding on the Lord Jesus Christ. We see the promise of God.

We become persuaded of the promise of God, and we embrace the promise of God. To embrace the promise of God is to envelop ourself in it. To hug it, to embrace it, is to take it into our bosom.

You see, faith affects us in such a way where we become consumed with, and feast upon, and feed upon the word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and live for God, and the things that God has promised. Faith enables men and women to be committed to God and His will. So when we experience, beloved, seeing the promises of God, being persuaded of the promises of God, and embracing the promises of God, it

begins to affect our confession.

Read what it says. After they embraced them, it says, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Verse 14, for they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. So listen, beloved, listen. Understand what faith does in our lives.

This is a progression. This is what ought to be happening in everyone's life. Faith enables us to see the promise.

It enables us to become persuaded of the promise. It enables us to embrace the promise, and it affects our confession, and we begin to confess that we are strangers and pilgrims. That is, we have come to where we are living by the Word of God.

We are living in the Word of God. We have hung our life upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and as far as the earth and the things that the earth offer, we are strangers. We are pilgrims.

We're just passing by. We don't have anything permanent down here. There's nothing that the world can offer me that is going to infatuate me, that is going to interest me, because I have seen the promises of God.

I have been persuaded of the promises of God. I am embracing the promises of God. Therefore, I am confessing that I am a stranger and a pilgrim.

Jesus said, I am in the world, but I'm not of the world. I'm in the world, but I'm not of the world. What begins to happen is we realize that we are a heavenly people with a heavenly calling, possessors of a heavenly Holy Spirit, and we are apprehending and laying hold to heavenly promises.

Oh, beloved, do you want to be a man or a woman of faith? This is it. You're not a man or a woman of faith and in love with the world, beloved. Know you not that to be a friend of this world is to be what? An enemy of God.

There's a pseudo-fake faith going around in Christianity today. It's a profession only. There's a lot of singing, a lot of dancing, a lot of Christian activity, but there's no faith working that is producing a people who are utterly committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and who are living by the Word of God.

Beloved, we need to examine whether we are in the faith or not. We need to examine whether or not the faith we profess is the faith that the Scriptures teach, and we need to pray that God will put in us a faith that will see, become persuaded, embrace, and then enable us to confess that we're strangers and pilgrims. When we confess we're strangers and pilgrims, what we're saying is the world has nothing to offer me.

Is that true with you this morning? Have you come to the place where you can say the world has nothing for me? The world can't offer me anything? The world's allurements, the world's lusts, the world's desires, all the things that the world wants me to conform to, they don't have me because I am a pilgrim and a stranger. I am united to a heavenly Christ and my heart has been changed. My mind is being renewed.

That's what God wants. And then when all these things begin to work in us, look what happens then. Verse 15, truly if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had

opportunity to have returned.

Whenever God produces faith in us, listen, that enables us to make a confession that we're after God, listen, we will always be tested. And here's how we're going to be tested. We're going to be given an opportunity to go back.

Isn't that just what it says? For if they had been mindful of the country from whence they came, they would have returned. Any time faith is working in your life, you will be given an opportunity to go back to test the genuineness of your faith. These men, when they had been given an opportunity to go back, what did they do? They refused to go back.

They didn't go back. They kept their eyes focused on God's promise, the testing of our faith. When our faith is being tested, we are always given an opportunity to renounce the things that are invisible and go back to the things that we can touch and see and feel.

Now watch what happens. Verse 16. But now they desire a better country that is a heavenly.

Wherefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he hath prepared for them a city. Listen carefully. There are a people that God is not ashamed to call their God.

Who are these people? Who are the people that God is not ashamed to say that now I'm their God? I'm their God. I'm their God. I'm proud and pleased to be called their God.

Who are those people? Huh? Who are the people who God is not ashamed to call their God? Those who have this kind of faith working in them. Those who desire a heavenly as opposed to an earthly. The heavenly fix instead of the earthly fix.

The heavenly promise instead of the earthly promise. The heavenly satisfaction instead of the earthly satisfaction. The heavenly calling instead of the earthly calling.

God is not ashamed to be the God of those who see, who become persuaded, who embrace, and who confess, and who desire Him. O Beloved, how we need this morning the Lord to so lower us, and so bring us down, and so work in us the meekness and the realization of our need for Him, so that we can pray and ask for this kind of faith to live in our life today. Beloved, God is looking for people who will demonstrate this kind of faith in this world today.

But you know what this kind of faith will cost you? Everything. It'll cost you everything. You cannot have this faith and hold dear to anything else.

God alone, the Lord Jesus alone, must be your passion. And His will, and doing His will, and seeking His will alone, must be the thing that you're after all the days of your life. Then, and only then, is God not ashamed to call you, or to call Himself your God.

Do you want this kind of faith this morning? What's the personal application? Having a living faith, such as we just read, enables us to believe God and receive from God in a twofold way. Listen closely. Having the kind of living faith that we just read about in Hebrews, enables us to both believe God and receive from God in two different ways.

The first way that this kind of faith enables us to believe and receive God for, is as it relates to our redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ, and believing Him for all that Christ has secured for us. A living faith

enables us to believe God's Word when it says that He will save those who call upon Him out of a sincere heart, and truly, truly repent of their sins and turn to Him for salvation alone. This kind of faith enables us to accept the fact that the blood of Christ alone provides our salvation, that it is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy and grace.

Everything that Christ in heaven has secured for us is accessible to the believer by faith alone. This kind of faith, the faith that enables us to see, to believe, to embrace, to be persuaded of, and to confess. That's the first way that this kind of faith works in our life.

And then secondly, this kind of faith enables us to receive as it relates to laying hold of all the will of God on earth, and believing until we receive those things that God wants done in our lives, in our family's lives, and in our community's lives. This kind of faith enables us to commit ourselves to God's will, the seeking of God's will, the discovering of God's will in the Word, and then believing, laying hold, embracing, and confessing, and not settling for anything less than God's will. So to sum up what we've just said is this.

Faith that comes from Jesus Christ working in our life enables us to look to Jesus Christ that we might receive by faith all that He has provided for us as it relates to salvation. And secondly, it enables us to look to Jesus Christ and to His Word and discover the will of God for our lives, and believe God for it, and not turn from it, and not settle for anything less than whatever God's will is. Compared to a heart or a mind that's filled with doubt and unbelief, that kind of person is looking to grasp after something of his own making, something from the world that God's Word says don't touch.

That will result in destruction. Living faith will result in the triumph and victory of bringing pleasure to God's heart. What will you choose this morning? What is working in you this morning? What kind of faith do you have this morning? Let's pray.

Father, thank you for the Word. Thank you for the Holy Spirit. I pray Lord that we would be enabled this morning to be honest with ourselves and to recognize that true faith from the Lord Jesus Christ will always affect our actions, our decisions, and our will.

Lord, we stumble, we fall, we sin because of weaknesses, because of stupid mistakes, but in spite of it, Lord, we want the real faith. Show us, Lord, each one, our need for more faith. Show us, Lord, that we can only get this faith from the Lord Jesus Christ and from the Word getting into our hearts with meekness and humility in our life.

Lord, I'm asking you to release this kind of faith into our lives and into the lives of many, many Christians, Lord, that will result in radical change, power over the world, power to overcome the allurements of this world, and power to lay hold of the promises of God and to believe them. Lord, give us true faith, growing faith. This morning I pray.

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. We have a few minutes, so we can just meditate on the Word, and let the Holy Spirit speak to you.

Let the Holy Spirit and the Word speak to you this morning. Oh, Father, give us meekness, Lord. We know, Lord, that we have to receive the engrafted Word with meekness of heart, that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Lord, deliver us from our pride. Deliver us, Lord, from our arrogance. Deliver us, Lord, from our unwillingness to acknowledge our need.

Oh, God, please give us meekness and brokenness and genuine humility so that our hearts can receive from your hand the faith that Noah and Abraham and Paul and Peter had that provided them with the power to obey your Word at any cost, at any loss. Granted, I pray, Father. Hallelujah.

Lord, give us a faith that enables us to renounce sin, to renounce the desires of the flesh. Give us faith, Lord, that will give us the power like Noah had to fear God, depart from evil. Give us the faith, Lord, that will help us to renounce pride, worldliness, lying, cheating, drinking, drugs.

Give us the faith, Lord, that will help us to renounce and say no to sin, to sexual sin, which the world is addicted to. Lord, give us the faith that will enable us to renounce unforgiveness and bitterness and anger. Lord, give us the faith that will enable us to hang our lives upon the Word of God and say, whatever God says I'm going to follow, I'm going to submit to.

God's Word is my authority, not my own desires. Give us the faith that moves us, Lord, that moved Noah and Abraham to obey and to fear you. Give us the faith, Lord, that when people ridicule us because of our stand for you, that in meekness and in gentleness we can just humbly answer them but not renounce our faith.

Help us to lay hold of your promise, Lord. Father, I pray for Judy now again. I'm asking you to save her, bring her to church, Lord.

Let her come and see. Father, again, if you have need of that 25 acres, Lord, I'm asking you, Lord, I'm asking you, Lord, if you have need of it, Lord, if it's in your thought, Lord, I want to believe you for it, Lord. I want to see a place, Lord, where saints from all over can come and worship you, where families can be ministered to, where children can come from all over the area.

Lord, you know that in five years, ten years, Lord, this place is going to mushroom, that there's going to be multiplied thousands and thousands of people that are coming into this area. Lord, I know, I know that you want a people prepared and ready who are selfless to jump in to the harvest and lay their lives down. Lord, we're asking you for big things and it's not based on our resources, it's based on your resources.

Hallelujah to God. Lord, we'll never fleece for money, we'll never do it, Lord. As long as I'm here, Lord, we'll never fleece for money, because you are God and you're able.

And so, Lord, we ask for big things, Lord. If we only asked, Lord, for the things that we felt our resources were capable of getting, then we wouldn't be trusting you, we'd be trusting in our resources, God. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you for your word. Lord, if you have need for it, Lord, work it out. Lord, I'm claiming hundreds and hundreds of families and thousands of children, Lord, as you yourself said.

Lord, thank you. You know, saints, it's remarkable that, you know, we're going to have classes now for all ages, from the newborn on up to 12th grade, because when David comes, God willing, he's planning on coming in May or June, he's got a vision for the young people. He's got a vision for youth.

Let me tell you, God has used this young man in a mighty, mighty way. I mean, hundreds of kids have gotten saved under his leadership and his praying. He has prayed for lots of kids and they've gotten the Holy Ghost, they've spoken in tongues.

He's right, he's at the high school now in Gulfport, Mississippi, and he's turning the high school upside down as a senior. He himself said, God told him to come. He believes God showed him that there's a great harvest coming.

Interestingly, how the Lord has shown us the same thing. So, God is sending workers. The Lord gave Suzanne and Danielle wisdom, and Lucy, and all the workers, and they're going to be able to provide classes for all the age groups now.

So, the Lord is right now preparing. He takes his time when he prepares. He's putting workers in place.

He's sending people. God is doing something. God is going to do it.

I believe God wants to touch hundreds of families in this tri-state area. I believe God wants to send a move of the Spirit that we haven't seen in a hundred years. I believe God wants to raise up hundreds of young people.

How old are you, Jason? 20? 18? I believe God wants to raise up hundreds of young people, Jason's age and a little younger, Christina's age, 14, 15, who are on fire for God. Do you believe that? Do you believe that's what's in the heart of God? Of course it is. You say, well, look, we're just so small.

We don't have anything. Oh, beloved, since when is it based on what you have and what your resources are? Since when? Since when is anything based on it? Do you really want God to give you what you can do and what your resources have available? If that's so, then just lift up a thimble, because that's about all you can handle, a thimble full. When God looked for an army, he called Gideon.

And then when Gideon said, I got 32,000 people, God looked and said, I don't like it because it smells. It's got the smell of man on it. It's got the smell of, look what we have done.

Look what we can do. So God reduced it to 300. And then once 300, compared to the large number of Philistines, it didn't look like it could happen.

And that's when God said, there you go. That's just the way I want it. So that when I do do it, no one can say it's because of our wisdom and our goodness and our wisdom and our smarts.

The Midianites. Thank you. Who made that observation? Boy.

Well, isn't that good that our children know more of the Bible than we do? It's encouraging, isn't it? So beloved, believe God. Ask God so that when it happens, you won't be totally shocked. Believe God.

Believe God that he wants to do it. Start for your own family, but don't stop there because God wants us to lay our life down. What are you going to believe God for? What do you believe in God for? What's the vision in your heart? What do you believe in God for, beloved? What are you asking God for? What do you believe in him for? I've shared what I believe in God for.

I've stepped out on a limb. What are you stepping out on a limb for? What do you believe in God for? What are you asking God to do to bring glory to his name? Start in your family. What are you asking God for? God is wanting people to dare to believe him.

There's nothing impossible with God. We put the limits on God. When we stand before God, do you know what God's going to say? He's going to say, why did you limit me? We'll say, well, Lord, you didn't do

anything really outstanding when I was alive, and God will say, that's because you never believed me for.

You never asked me. You were content. You were content to live your life selflessly, selfishly.

You were content. Then others will come to God, and they're going to come full of joy, and they're going to come speechless because their eyes have seen remarkable things. And people will look at them and say, Lord, why did you do it for them? He'll say, because they asked, because they believed me, because they didn't sleep at night.

They were up at night weeping and praying. When I called them to pray, and they had another thing to do, and they didn't, and they stopped, they prayed. But you, when I called you to pray, when I called you to seek me, and you said, Lord, not now.

I'm too busy. You think that's going to happen someday? It most certainly will. John said there's two reactions that are going to come within the church.

I'm not talking about unbelievers. Within the church, when Jesus comes back again, there's going to be those who are going to have confidence and boldness at his coming. That means when he comes, they're not going to, they're going to stand right up and greet him.

Hallelujah, Lord. And there's those who are going to be ashamed. That word ashamed means to draw back and hide.

Why? Because when we see him, we're going to realize either we believed who he said he was, or we didn't. And we're going to realize whether we believed his word or not. Now is the time, beloved, to settle this issue.

Now is the time. This is just as serious an issue as salvation itself. Once we're saved, we need to pray, God, make me committed to you.

Amen. Well, praise the Lord. That's all I have from the Lord.

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