**Second Baptist Church**

***F4 Conference: “Next level faith, family, fitness, & finance”***

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**NEXT LEVEL FAITH: “Lord Increase our Faith”**

As believers of God who have drawn near to Him through faith in Him, we are called to “Live by faith” (according to…Romans 1:17 that says “the just shall live by faith”) and we are called to “walk by faith” (according to 2 Corinthians 5:7 that says “we walk by faith and not by sight”).

Faith is of the utmost importance to a Christian. There is nothing that should be of greater and more earnest concern than our faith! Our greatest concern is not: a life without trials or a life with treasures, but the trust that we have of God despite either.

As saints of God, we are not sustained by positive thinking or whimsical wishing. We are not sustained by confessing with our mouth alone. Our life is sustained by the conviction of our faith!

Our main desire and goal as Christians, should be that our faith be increased!

We should be like the Apostles of Christ, In Luke 17:5, who made the desirous demand upon some occasion: “Lord Increase our faith”.

***Increase the Extent of it. The extent of what it will receive & believe***

***&***

***Increase the Intensity of it: increase its power***

This lesson deals with the 2 primary ways you Increase your faith!! You have to: **WORD your Faith & WORK your Faith!**

The primary way faith emanates, perpetuates, and accelerates in the life of a Christian is found in Paul’s argument to the Church at Rome, when He was speaking about salvation. Paul gives us our first means of increasing our faith!

***Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God”***

***#1 WORD YOUR FAITH***

Faith comes to us initially, and it keeps coming to us, perpetually and increasingly, in no other way but by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!

*Paul said Faith “Pistis” in the greek which means assurance, belief, reliance upon God through Christ, only comes by HEARING!!! (The word hearing, “akoe” means what it says, Hearing).*

*IF YOU WANT THE GOD KIND OF FAITH, THEN YOU HAVE TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. SO THAT IT CAN COME INTO YOUR HEART.*

Faith came in us when we heard the word, therefore, faith keeps coming in us as we hear the word! That’s why we need Preaching! (Paul was advocating the preaching of the word). The Proclamation of the gospel. (This I know by the greek word “rhema” for “the word of God”.

 *“Pistis comes from akoe, through a rhema about Christ”*

**The word of God establishes and builds faith in us!**

The more we hear it, the more encouraged in our faith we become.

Bottomline: *The word of God is the revelation of truth and when the truth is received into our heart, (after we have heard it), it begins a life of trust in the God of truth. The faith life is a life lived in accordance with the truth!!*

This leads us to another means of increasing our measure of faith!

**We ought to Act upon and Exercise the truth that we know, because the more we exercise it the more it will exist within us!**

**#2 WORK YOUR FAITH**

If faith is going to exist within us at a greater measure, it has to be exercised or put into action. Which means the truth within us has to be tried and put to work!

Faith is not applied optimism, wisdom, intellect, emotion, religion

 but Faith is Truth applied

The more it’s engaged the more It’s increased!!!

**If we engage it in our daily lives, and not just when difficulty comes, It will be stronger in difficulty!**

One thing that is certain to make your faith grow is when It is exercised by your actions!!

2 points of consideration:

**Faith is Potent and has power as It is Put to use!!!**

James the Apostle said, “so also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead).” James 2:17 Amplified bible.

Not only is our Faith empowered as we put it use according to our will, but also our faith is Strengthened by God’s will! God will sometimes require of us activity in adversity that makes us exercise our faith.

I wanna close looking at the man of Mark 3:1-5

**Our Faith is Strengthened as It Stretched!!**

“We have to be called to a greater degree of discomfort to experience a greater degree of development!!”