**Second Baptist Church**

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

*Presented by: Dr. Kevin A. Kelly*

**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” (Romans 1:17) and we are called to “walk by faith” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Therefore, this demands that faith becomes a vital part of our daily lives!

Living and Walking by faith is what the Christian life is all about!

By faith…….

*\*We have hope in the midst of hopelessness*

*\*We believe “God is” (Heb. 11:6)*

*\*We maintain our trust in God, even in trials*

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 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!***

The disciples were desirous of a faith of depth and a faith of grip!

We need an ever-increasing faith that believes God. An ever-increasing faith that takes God at His word, trusting His character, knowing and believing who He has revealed Himself to be, and living out that truth every day. “I Believe God”

Over the four weeks of this conference, I want to deal with how to Increase your faith!! (Take your faith to the next level) This evening, I want to deal with the primary way faith emanates, perpetuates, and accelerates in the life of a Christian! It 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”***

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!

***Faith does not come by inheriting!!***

***Faith does not come by feeling!!***

***Faith does not come by adhering and conforming to faith-like practices!!***

*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.*

*What we hear forms the basis of things that we believe and do!*

WE ALL HAVE FAITH IN SOMETHING, BUT WHAT OUR FAITH IS IN DEPENDS ON WHAT OR WHO WE’RE LISTENING TO. IF WE LISTEN TO THE WORLD THEN CHANCES ARE WE HAVE FAITH IN THE WORLD’S SYSTEM. WE WILL LET IT DICTATE OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR ACTSION. HOWEVER IF WE DEPEND ON THE WORD OF GOD AND WHAT HE HAS SPOKEN TO DETERMINE OUR PRESENT REALITY THEN WE OPERATE IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REALM, THE REALM OF VICTORIOUS FAITH.

NOTES:

What Happens when we Hear?

THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD TAKES THE MESSAGE THAT IS HEARD AND PENETRATES OUR HEART & REASONATES THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD INTO US!!!