

Great Faith Series - Part 2
What Keep Us from Faith?
March 20th, 2022

Intro:

- Welcome everyone and Honor Pastor Matt and Sarah and Church!
- We are in a new series Great Faith! As P. Matt Introduced the series last week we are living in a world that demands us to have not just little faith but Great FAITH!!!
 - Church, God is calling us to have Great Faith!!!

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

- Our faith pleases God! But we have to put our believe into action for it to be faith as Pastor Matt ILL last week.

SITTING IN A CHAIR ILL - I believe these chairs are sturdy / trustworthy / solid / dependable / strong / firm /

- People have told me how they've held them...
- We can believe all that, but Faith SITS in the chair!!!
- I believe God works all things together for my good...
- I believe He is in control! - I believe He is trustworthy...
- I believe He never leaves me! - I believe He will never fail me
- God is calling us as a church to not just believe, but to put that believe into action.

But, some of us feel stuck...Wanting to have this great faith but something is stopping us.

TS: Which leads us to a place of asking what is stopping you and I from having Great Faith?

Let's Pray!

Have you ever wanted something so bad and no matter how hard you try it's just not happening. Something is stopping you from getting it.

Story of putting a tap player in my first car. I wanted to have my own music.

I did all I know to do but there was still somethings that was stopping me from having the ability to play my own music in that that car...

There was something stopping me from getting what I wanted.

TS: I think the same thing is true about us and having great faith! Many of us have tried all that we can....

But, something is still stopping us when it comes to having great faith in our lives.

- We are still fearful in the middle of trials in our lives**
- We are still hesitant to put God first in our finances when the economy is going downhill and gas prices are high.**
- When things are going bad and we can't see the way out.**

Could it be that we are missing something, that there is still something that is keeping us from the great faith that God is calling us to?

Peter in the bible got to this place in his faith... that he was willing to be all in but there was still not enough faith to get through... he had all the believe in the world but when it came to putting his believe into action and for it to become great faith he came up short.

Peter...

Walked on water!

Was the first to declare that Jesus was the son of God!

Said he was willing to follow Jesus even unto death!

Right when he thought he figured it out things went really bad.

He collapsed in a pile of failure. During Jesus' moment of greatest need, Peter denied him with a curse, saying " I don't know the man!"

Matthew 26:74-75 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowd. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Some accounts in the bible say that Peter and Jesus made eye contact when this happened.

Can you imagine that eye contact? Peter ran out and fell apart. This brash, boastful, indestructible Peter's failure in having the Great Faith that the moment in time demanded.

What was he missing and what are will missing in this moment in history to demands us to have great faith. I believe that we see two things that stopped Peter and You and I from the Great Faith God has called us to.

The first thing that stops us from great faith in our lives is...

1. Perspective!

- a. At any given time we either have a temporal perspective or a eternal one.
- b. When we say yes to Jesus we are born again into a new family. We also become citizens of heaven.
 - i. **Philippians 3:20a But our citizenship is in heaven.**
 - ii. **Matthew 6:19-20 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**
- c. Our faith is strong and is even great when we have our perspective on heaven and eternity. But that changes when we shift to a temporal perspective.
- d. When Peter declared earlier that he would never disown Christ, he had a perspective that was eternity.
- e. Be when things got tough and he questioned if he was a follower of Jesus, his perspective changed to the temporal.
- f. To often our faith is rocked when the heat gets turned up.
 - i. We loss our job
 - ii. We get an unexpected bill
 - iii. Our child is diagnosed with a liement
- g. And that is natural when we are focused on the wrong things. When we allow our temporary problems to be bigger than our eternal God.

- i. **ILL> perspective ILL.** Whatever we are focused on will “look” bigger and stronger than other things. But God is bigger!
 - ii. This is what happened in the garden with Peter before he even got to the decision to disown Jesus.
 - iii. He was in the garden with Jesus and the other disciples and he was faced with a decision of perspective that effected his faith...
 - iv. **Matthew 26:37-38** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he begin to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.
 - v. After a long day Jesus asked in his great time of need to keep watch and pray with him.
 - vi. Peter and the rest of the disciples got more focused on the temporary issues of being tired instead of the eternal impact of the moment.
 - 1. **Matthew 26:40** Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” He asked Peter.
 - vii. Jesus had an eternal perspective and it lead him to great faith to submit to the father’s will!
 - viii. But for Peter when things got tough in the present moment he lost his focus on the eternal, and he began to drift to the temporal.
- h. **Nothing grows our great faith like having a eternal perspective.**
 - i. **MIP:** I remember one time that Adalina my daughter swallowed two small magnets and we rushed her to urgent care. If I were looking at it from a temporal perspective I would have little to no faith and it would have turned to fear.
 - 1. But when you have an eternal perspective you trust that your child was fearful and wonderfully made and that he has a plan for her and her future.
 - 2. You walk in a Great Faith Kind of way. In the way you love, care, hope in God.
 - i. Too many of us lose the great faith that is growing in us before we even get to the toughest parts of our life because we think that Great Faith is only produced in Great circumstances.
 - i. This was not true for Peter and it’s not true for us.
 - ii. We build great faith over time by trusting God in the small things first.

1. Trusting God in...
 - a. our health
 - b. our marriage
 - c. our bills
 - d. The wellbeing of my kids.
- iii. So that when you and I get to the moments that are big we have that great faith that is needed, because it was built day in day out.

What about us?

What is our perspective right now? Is it Temporal or Eternal?

Are we growing our faith day in day out in the little things to prepare for the big ones.

The second thing that stops us from great faith in our lives is...

2. Sin: lack of Repentance.

a. The reality is that Peter sinned

- i. **Matthew 26:73-74** After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”
- ii. He cursed and denied Christ, Peter knew that Christ was the son of God and still denied him.
- iii. There needed to be repentance in his life.
- iv. And until that repentance came there was a need for reconciliation in his relationship with Jesus.
- v. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- vi. The devil has lied to us about repentance...he lies to us about everything.
- vii. You see repentance was intended to be a gift from God
 1. Think about the prodigal son, when he came to himself and turned (repented) there was blessing not punishment
 2. Now yes there are consequences of course, but the punishment of our sin was paid for on the cross.
- viii. In the New Testament, the word *repent* simply means to turn around. It was a military term that described a soldier marching in one direction and then doing an about-face. Spiritually, it

means to change your heart attitude—from a heart bent on self-rule to a heart submitting to Christ's rule.

- b. if its' at a heart level there is some things that only you and God know.
- c. But every-time I repent for an action, way of thinking, or a bad attitude my relationship with God is right again. The relationship never stopped but the relationship on my end was not right.
 - i. MIP: When Irina and I get into an augment and I hurt her. we are still married! I believe in our love still. But when I ask for forgiveness, I renew her faith in our relationship.
 - ii. Nothing grows my faith then when I am reminded of his grace.
 - 1. When I said yes for the first time
 - 2. When I have messed up and he forgives me today
 - 3. When he proves his mercies are new every morning.
 - 4. Some of us still believe in Jesus and his love and forgiveness and your still in relationship with him because of what he did on the cross. But there is something between you and him.
 - iii. This happened for Peter too. There was reconciliation between him and Jesus and he went on to build the church!

Question: Where or what do we need to repent of in our lives?

- iv. Holy Spirit where do i need to repent?
- v. Conviction vs. guilt
- vi. Prayer: Search my heart oh God!
- vii. Psalm 139:23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

PRAYER

SALVATION