

What Does Faith Look Like?

Acts 14: 8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: **9** The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, **10** Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

Faith is perhaps one, if not the, most important element necessary to grow in the Christian walk.

Goerge Muller once said: the beginning of anxiety is the end of faith and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him:

AW Tozer said, faith is the vitamin that makes all we take from the bible digestable

We are saved by faith We walk by faith We are of the household of faith

Faith is the key that unlocks the supernatural realm of our natural existence. Where we stand this morning in our walk with Christ is a direct result of the location and depth of our faith. It's a journey-

Romans 12:3 tells us that each of us has been given a **measure of faith**.....what we do with it and how we use it is up to us.

Without faith it is impossible to please God and you and I won't be happy either. We cannot compare ourselves and our faith with that of our brother or sister. Comparing will only lead to division.

3 little kids were talking....one said my brother takes horseback riding lessons. Another said well my sister takes gymnastics. The 3rd one, not wanting to be outdone said, well that's nothing, my sister takes antibiotics!

2 things are true about faith people...

People with faith feel good about themselves...they know that they are the way they are because made them that way and God doesn't make mistakes (fearfully & wonderfully made) For most people, it's not what they are that holds them back. It's what they think their not.

Fear is the exact opposite of faith...it believes the worst Faith believes that the absolute best will happen in every situation

So what does faith look like?

In our text we see a man crippled in his feet since birth. He had never taken a step forward, never ran barefoot through the grass, never felt the heat from the hot beach sand running through his toes. He was just sitting where he had been placed.

Many times the reason that we have no faith is because we are still sitting in the place where God put us long ago.

- God requires legs on your faith,

- legs on your praise,
- legs on your prayer life so that you move on and on to higher levels.
- We need to get up on our feet,
- move out of our seat and into the street! Many folks are afraid to share the *Gospel*. One man said, Our preacher tells us to go out and witness to others weekly. Nothing strikes fear in me more than sharing my faith with a complete stranger. Why, it's gotten so bad, I've enrolled in a Witness Relocation program! In NY City its gotten so bad that if you want to talk to a Jehovah's Witness you need to go knock on their door!

This man listened to Paul as he spoke and when Paul fastened his eyes upon this crippled man, everything else went out of focus except for what he perceived in this mans eyes. **Faith gets your attention!**

Faith looks like unbridled enthusiasm.

- Paul saw expectancy and enthusiasm.
- Paul saw the man running in his spirit
- Paul saw a man that was leaping up and down on the inside

Faith looks like unlimited potential.

Peter, in Luke 5 was asked by Jesus to "launch out into the deep for a catch". In other words, go out beyond the boundaries that you have accepted for yourself and experience mine. Expand your perimeter, your comfort zone, and start to think and live out of the box. When we limit ourselves, we limit God. Faith knows that what we see is not all there is. What we are is not all we will be. Where we are is not where we will end up.

A little further on in Luke 5, the Lord was teaching Pharisees and teachers of the law from all over Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem. The bible says that "the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick" Some men had gathered with their paralyzed friend and they were trying to get him to Jesus but the crowd was simply overwhelming. Many would give up and catch him next time he comes to town....but not these guys. They looked for another opening and decided to go up on the roof and drop him into the Lord's lap. The scripture says, "When Jesus saw their faith, he looked at the paralytic and said your sins are forgiven.

It appears to me that this man was in such bondage about his past that he couldn't receive his present and therefore the faith of his friends brought about a miracle for him.

Faith looks like unwavering resourcefulness.

In Mark 5 there was a woman who had been ill for 12 years and exhausted every human resource available to get well. All she received back was a negative report. In fact, instead of getting better, she got worse! When she heard about Jesus, she went after him (though it was against Jewish law for her to be seen in public) because she thought, if I can get close enough to touch him, I will be better. She was willing to risk it all!

Faithfulness is the willingness to take risks that require faith in order to produce fruit.

Faith looks like unquenchable desire

Faith is dead to doubt, dumb to discouragement, and blind to impossibilities.

It knows nothing but success in God

Faith is not believing that God can, it is knowing that God will!

Hebrews 11:1 Amplified - NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being

the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

The size of the man's faith is more important than the size of the problem.

Greater is He that is in me than the problem that is coming against me.

Faith takes action....

Hebrews 11:33 tells us, Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.