

THE SIX WEEK PURSUIT HEROE'S LEGACY

WEEK 1 – FAITH

Wednesday - “The Galactic Vending Machine”

BIBLE STUDY:

Read Hebrews 11 before reading our Devotional

DEVOTIONAL:

Dear Church Family,

Faith is not a currency. Have you ever heard the phrase: “you don’t have enough faith”? Usually, when people say this, they are echoing Jesus’ teachings to His disciples and the people around Him. It’s true, Jesus said things like: “you of little faith”, “if you have faith and do not doubt”, “have you still no faith”, and so on and so on.

Hearing phrases like that, it is easy to fall victim into the mindset that faith is a currency. What I mean is: we think of faith as something we build up and spend to get what we want. In this way of thinking, we see God as a galactic vending machine. If I provide the correct amount of change, or faith, I will then get a soda, er, my prayers answered.

Yes, that illustration is ridiculous. But so is the idea that faith is like money, and that we have to increase our amount of faith to get God’s attention.

So then, what is faith?

Well, our reading in Hebrews 11 answers this question simply. The ESV translation says: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” The key words are assurance, hope, and conviction. This is what defines faith. So then, when Jesus says we do not have enough faith, what He is truly saying is that we have no assurance in what we hope for and therefore have no hope. A lack of faith would also imply that we have no conviction in things not seen.

Now the writer of the book of Hebrews states that all who believe in Jesus Christ have faith. In fact, Jesus, Himself, said that should we have faith the size of a mustard seed, a mere speck of faith, that we could move mountains in His name. So what then is the deal with faith?

More of than not, our lack of faith has less to do with what we believe and how much we believe than who we believe in. When Jesus refers to His disciples having little faith, it is always in reference to Himself. Picture this: Jesus leads His disciples out onto a boat to a cross a sea. As they cross a storm hits and threatens their lives. Do you believe Jesus was surprised when that storm struck? No, He was not. When the disciples awakened Him from his nap upon that stormy sea, they basically cried out to Him: do you even care that we are all going to die?

Jesus immediately orders the storm to stop and then turns to His disciples and comments on their lack of faith; their lack of faith in what? Well, Jesus led them out onto those waters. Their lack of faith was not in a miracle, but that Jesus would care for them.

So you see, faith is not so much about believing hard enough, or wishing with all your might, or even praying desperately and fervently. No, faith comes down to: do you have assured hope in Jesus, and have conviction that He can do the impossible? Do you trust Him when He leads you into a storm? Do you have faith in Jesus' character and hope in His goodness and love?

Faith topples mountains, not because we believe hard enough and thus earn it, but because we trust fully and know fully the one who can move mountains if He so chooses. And our faith in His character is so deep that even if the mountain does not move, we still know He is good and faithful.

Sincerely,
Ty Weaver

CHALLENGE:

Write down what you genuinely hope for the most. Do not overthink it; just react to that previous instruction as it comes natural to you.

Do you have assurance and conviction in what you wrote down? Why or why not?

PRAYER:

Let's conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray that you may know God's character better.
- Pray for God to increase your trust in Him.
- Pray for Jesus to be your living hope; giving you strength even in hardship.

