

"CONTINUING IN FAITH"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
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Life Group Lesson Objective: Faith in God’s word is the object of our faith.

Life Group Leader preparation:

In continuing with our theme for 2020, “The Word, Faith & Prayer”; the scripture for the May lesson is Colossians 1:23. “If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you have heard....”

In the original text”in the faith”, the word the is not included. So, it should read “if you continue in faith”.

Jesus’ definition of faith

Mark 11:22-24 And Jesus answered his disciples’ question by saying: “have **faith** in God” whoever says and does not doubt in his heart but believes what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

Faith is a choice/choosing life – Deut 30:11-19

Faith is being confident in God’s Word

Find and know the scriptures.....memorize Word.... David said “your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you” ...Psalm 119:11

Faith is acting on the Word of God

Phil 4:9 - Paul told Timothy to “practice what you have learned from me.

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and model your way of living on it”

Who are you teaching/discipling in such a way that you are confident to say, “follow me”?

Phil 4:11-12: Paul said he has learned some things...

Allow group members to share things they have learned during this time in our world.

Romans 10:17 – So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Week #1 – We Began with Faith”

Discussion Question – What is your definition to “walk by faith and not by sight”?

2 Corinthians 5:7...

- I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways – Ps 119:15
- I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word
- Not my will, but your will be done

Prov 4:20 -22 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. – KJV

Our very first “act of faith” was when we ‘confessed with our mouth and believed in our hearts’ that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that he died for our sins”. It was the beginning of our ‘faith walk’ or life of faith with the Lord.

What is your definition of faith?

And so, we are to continue to live our lives in the exact same way...believe God’s word, act on it, say it and continue to believe. We don’t have to get up every morning and repeat Romans 10:9-10 everyday, why? because we believed the first time, we prayed the prayer of faith we got saved, received our salvation and we now have eternal life.

Are you growing in faith? Share your growth

Week #2 – Faith vs Confidence

Discussion Question – How has faith built your confidence in God’s word?

Share a personal experience of how “your” faith has worked (remember the just shall live by faith)

Choices: I am who and where I am because of the choices I’ve made. I shouldn’t blame God when things don’t always go as planned...God gave me a sound mind, could it be I didn’t operate in soundness of mind? It’s difficult to **walk by faith** without a sound mind. God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and a self-discipline (NLT) - 2 Tim 1:7.

.....sound mind - KJV

.....and discipline - ASV

(Sound judgement and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control])

Faith in the God’s word brings confidence....

.....2 Tim 1:5 - remember your **genuine faith** - NLT

The **same faith** of your grandmother and mother

Week #3 – Grounded and settled in faith

Discussion Question – Does Faith build confidence in prayer?

I John 5:14 – And this is the confidence we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us (KJV):

His will is written in His word. In order to “continue in faith”, I must know his will; this is no time for assumptions. The scripture says “life and death are in the power of the tongue”; if what I say is of utmost importance; I need, I should, I must know what God’s word says.

- Remember this is back to the basics
- If you say I already know this....and you probably do....
 - Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God - Romans 10:17

Mark 11:22-24 = Saying, shall not doubt in your heart, but believe what you say, you shall have what you say....

Don’t think it strange: the trying of your faith
Trials and test build our faith: (should build our faith)

We all a measure of faith - Rom 12:3....to think soberly...according to the measure of faith God....or by the standard of our God given faith.... (Luke18:27 - But he said, what is impossible with men is possible with God).

Just a thought:

God has the last say: Gen 8:1-18 - Noah after the flood; (Coronavirus). We need to hear from God. WAIT ON GOD. Man may think it’s time to go out.... but God says not yet.
.....vs 15 Then God said leave the boat....

Ps 46:10 He says,” Be still and know that I am God....”. Faith is not anxious

God’s timing is perfect.

Week #4 – Without Faith, pleasing Him is impossible

Discussion Question – How do I build my faith?

First, don’t be anxious: The God kind of faith, is not anxious, fearful or nervous. - be anxious for nothing – Phil 4:6

- KJV – be careful for nothing

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- Philippians 4:6 Amp - do not fret or have any anxiety about anything.... continue to make your wants know to God
- Concerning Healing – Prov 4

Prov 4:20 -22 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. – KJV

- ...health to all their flesh = medicine to their flesh
- Psalm 119:11 – thy Word have I hid in my heart
- Jesus is our example: John 6:38 – For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent me.

JUST BELIEVE GOD’S WORD! – get rid of any and all thoughts and ways that are contrary to the Bible. Step out on and faith and believe...

READ BIBLE DURING JESUS’ TIME WHEN HE COMMENED MANY PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH.

1. The Centurion Soldier – Matt 8:5-10
2. Woman with the issue of blood – Mark 5:25-34