

“Undergoing Construction ‘25: A Foundation Of Faith! pt 2”

Pastor Jim Lowe III

Sunday Morning, 9:30am Stream

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{All scriptures are NIV84 unless stated}

Message Title:

“Undergoing Construction ‘25: A Foundation Of Faith! pt 2”

What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1-2

**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2
This is what the ancients were commended for.**

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Being sure of the things we hope for.

Faith Is Being Confident That Something Good Is Going To Happen!

And that faith is necessary.

we as believers MUST have it!

People Can Have Faith In All Types Of Things!

Story:

There is a man named McArthur Wheeler.

he was someone who robbed a couple banks in the 90s.

He didn't wear a ski mask or some face covering.

the only thing on his face was smothered lemon juice.

He was told that because lemon juice was used as invisible ink...

it would also make him invisible to security cameras.

he wasn't worried about people looking at him...

But this guy had faith in this lemon juice.

He walked in there with no intent on hiding his identity beyond lemon juice.

even smiling at the cameras.

no surprise they caught him within a few hours.

Shocked at being caught...

he reportedly said, "But I wore the juice!"

This is the type of faith the Lord wants us to have in him.

Hebrews 11:6

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.

Faith is necessary to please God!

Without it you CAN'T please him!

But there's a different type of faith the Lord wants to see.

In Mark 11...

Jesus is hungry and goes up to a fig tree...

he's looking for fruit but finds none.

so he SAYS to the tree...

may no one eat from you ever again.

Mark 11:20-21

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the

roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”

The disciples noticed that the tree had died.

no one touched it.

only the words of Jesus.

what does he say?

Mark 11:22-24

22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. 23 “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

So let’s look at what we see here.

Under Construction: How To Build A Foundation of Faith:

- 1. Have Faith IN GOD**
- 2. Speak The Command**
- 3. Do Not Doubt**

We talked about the first 2 last week.

Where do you have your faith?

what are you speaking?

It’s not just about saying it...

it’s about believing it.

But when we believe.

We have to believe and NOT doubt.

Doubt Is What Kills Our Faith!

Remember Peter in the boat?

After they had finished feeding the 5,000 AFTER ministering...

Jesus went to pray.

and the disciples were supposed to cross a lake.

It took them all night to cross.

because of a storm.

The disciples had been out for almost 8 hours straining in this storm.

they're hungry, angry...exhausted.

In the middle of their straining...

they see Jesus walking to them on the water.

Matthew 14:27-29

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Peter sees what they think is a ghost...

Peter says if it's you tell me to come out there.

and Peter goes out.

Can you imagine the faith necessary to consider this...

but to get out of the boat and actually DO IT!

THAT is faith!

Your Faith Can Keep You Standing When Others Would Sink!

This is why it's important to have faith.

Because YOUR faith can do things for you

that others can't do.

Even when the disciples saw Peter get out...

they didn't join...

know why?

They didn't have the faith!

But Peter is on his way walking to Jesus.

Matthew 14:30

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Peter begins to sink and cries out...

“Lord save me!”

Peter had become distracted by realizing what he was doing...

that realization created doubt.

and Jesus catches him.

What did Jesus say to him?

“You of little faith.”

“Why did you doubt?”

Little faith!?

Peter got out on the water when no one else would...

made it further than anyone else...

only to be told he had “little faith.”

Doubt Will Stop A Miracle In Progress!

Jesus says multiple times through scripture...

of you of little faith.

Little faith is not a badge of honor!

That’s not what he wants for us!

From last week:

The Purpose Of Faith Is To Move The Mountain!

But remember that MOVING the mountain happens by belief!

James 1:6-8

6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Doubt Makes Your Faith Ineffective!

What happened with Thomas?

After the crucifixion...

people were broken and hurt.

because they had seen Jesus die on the cross.

Although Jesus TOLD them to believe in him.

they SAW him die.

although they were told he'd come back.

They are together fellowshiping.

The doors are locked because the Disciples are in fear.

Jesus shows up in the middle of the room!

He blesses them and gives them his spirit.

They are all there...except for one.

John 20:24-25

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

They go and tell Thomas...

who didn't come to church that day...

Thomas says you didn't see the Lord.

he's dead.

You said you saw him?

prove it.

Unless I can put my finger where his nails were.

or my hand in his side...

I will NOT believe it.

John 20:26-27

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas came to meet with the other disciples.

There he sees where his doubt was apparent.

Let's talk about Thomas...

Thomas WAS A Disciple - A Man Of Faith!

Thomas had walked with Jesus.

he had seen Jesus do miracles over and over.

many healings - > Jesus had shown he had power over others.

calm the storm - > Jesus had power over nature.

Raise Lazarus - > Jesus had the power to raise the dead.

But NOW...Jesus was dead.

he was buried...and it had been days.

Thomas saw Jesus as a great man...

maybe the best and greatest ever.

however...death was always final.

It was the typical thing that even Thomas felt.

But Thomas didn't understand that this man he was following...

was bigger than death.

He had faith in his power in life.

but he had doubts about his power when Jesus died.

His doubts killed his faith.

But Jesus said that you must believe and not doubt.

Because doubt kills faith...

How Many Of Our Prayers Are Nullified Because Of Doubt?

How many of us pray about something and wonder if it'll actually happen?

How many of us wonder if God is even listening?

How many of us wonder if we can't have any better?

these things are doubt!

We Believe Enough In The Lord To ASK Him. Do We Believe Enough In Him To Do It?

Asking is one thing...

fully believing is the other!

Mark 9:17-18

17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

A man brought his son who was demon possessed to the disciples.

they could not drive it out.

These men who had been with Jesus all day for quite a while...

Verse 19-20

19 "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." 20 So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

O unbelieving generation...

generation filled with doubt...

is he talking about his disciples?

almost sounds like frustration.

Verse 21-23

21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. 22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23 " 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

The man says to Jesus...

if there is anything you can do.

Jesus seemed to take offense to that.

"If you can??"

Do you want the help or not?

Do you know who you're talking to?

Everything is possible first...

but for YOU to get it...

you have to believe.

Unbelief Causes Us To Doubt What God Can Do For Us!

It also implies that the Lord can get frustrated with some of our prayers...

“Do you want the help or not?”

“Do you believe I can do it or not?”

EVERYthing is possible to him who believes.

So what does this boy's father say?

Mark 9:24-27

24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” 26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He's dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Some of us need to be reminded of who we believe in...

and WORK to build our unbelief!

{recap}

Faith is a confident expectation of the future.

It is necessary to please God!

Under Construction: Building A Foundation of Faith:

- 1. Have Faith IN GOD**
- 2. Speak The Command**
- 3. Do Not Doubt**

But it's not JUST about believing...

because any doubt can cancel our faith.

There are prayers we can be offering...

that go unanswered...

because our unbelief has stopped our miracle.

Even the disciples dealt with doubt.

How Many Of You Are Dealing With Unbelief?

You can have faith the size of a mustard seed...

but having microscopic doubt stops it.

Next Week:

Strengthening Our Faith Beyond Doubt