



Part 2: FULL of Faith

Sermon Notes

Text: Acts 6-7; Romans 10:17

Introduction

What you are FULL of spills out when you get “bumped”.

So the question is, how do we live lives that spill out Jesus? Continuing to use Stephen as our example we are going to take a look at what it means to be full of faith. In Acts 6:5 it says that; “They chose Stephen, a man full of faith...”

Hebrews 11:1 it says; “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Acts 7:54ff – The stoning of Stephen

When Stephen was “bumped” (and by “bumped” I mean dragged into court and then killed by having stones thrown at him) faith spilled out. He saw the vision of the Ascended Jesus and with a heart FULL of assurance and FULL of conviction an inexpressible peace came over him. I find it fascinating that the faith that came out wasn’t faith for deliverance, but faith of what was not seen. Home. Heaven. Eternity with Jesus. And in that moment of faith he was empowered to follow Christ’s example as he prayed; “Father receive my Spirit” and “forgive them”.

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Powerful. When Stephen was bumped he was sure. He had the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

So how do we get this kind of faith? In Romans 10:17 it says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

Faith doesn’t come from blanket statements about God, but from the Word of God spoken to your spirit, through the Holy Spirit.

1. Faith Comes by Hearing Him in the Bible

“All Scripture is breathed out by God...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

When God Speaks through Scripture directly to our hearts it brings faith.

“Chew the Cud” – Meditate on Scripture

Study Scripture so you have the knowledge when you need it.

2. Faith Comes by Hearing Him in Prophecy

God speaks to us through the prophetic, whether it be a “word” an encouragement, a dream, a vision... God speaks specific direction to His children.

We need to hear clearly from God in every situation because life isn’t always cut and dry. Prophecy can be helpful because it often gives specific direction. Sometimes we can be praying and quoting scripture against God’s will. We might be declaring physical healing over our lives when God’s plan is to use our sickness to bring spiritual healing. He might be ignoring the felt need in order to bring to the surface the real need.

We need to be careful not to mask or doubt in God’s sovereignty (this is my life now) or to pray for things that are against his will (prosperity gospel). We need to be tenacious, courageous, driven by a furious love for God.

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday, March 8, 2015 - Pastor Dave Funk

3. Faith Comes by Hearing Him in the Silence

1 Kings 19 – Elijah when he needed to hear the word of the Lord.

God wasn't in the wind. He wasn't in the quake. He wasn't in the fire. He was in the whisper...

God gives us direction when we come to him with a heart attitude like Elijah "I am very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts"

Faith has more to do with the personhood of the Father than with results.

Conclusion

Life Group Discussion

1. What was one take away from the message this past Sunday?
2. What usually spills out of you when you get "bumped"?
3. Read Acts 7:54-60. What stands out to you in this passage? Do Stephen's words sound familiar?
4. Read Hebrews 11:1 & Hebrews 11:6. How does Stephen's death echo the themes in these verses?
 - How does this knowledge apply to our lives?
5. Read Romans 10:17. Have you ever heard God speak to you? (Audibly, in Scripture, in the prophetic, etc.). Share your experience.
 - According to this verse, how do we become FULL of faith?

6. Think back to Stephen's life. Are you living life in a way that puts you in "the line of fire"? Are you living in a way that you need faith?

- How can we live so that we need faith to get by?

7. Pray together:

- a) Pray that God would fill us with faith
- b) Pray for a willingness to submit to God and be led by him.
- c) Pray for our church to be FULL of faith
- d) Other requests:
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