

The Life Challenge

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Living by Faith
Title: The Promise of Faith
Speaker: Garth Borthistle
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WARM - UP

The passage is asking us to stop and do a check-in on faith. We discussed Tim Keller's quote, *"It's not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that actually saves you."* How does this match up with your understanding of faith? Who do you have faith in, your own ability to believe and figure things out, or in God who wants to show you something?

Discuss the difference between these 2 viewpoints. Is there a difference and if yes what is the key point?

DISCUSSION

1. Read Hebrews 11:13-16 out loud. Read it slowly and see what words or thoughts jump out at you. What does it mean to be foreigners and strangers? How did they see their world?
2. What is meant by having a heavenly country? Why is this important to God?

DISCUSSION

3. The word "opportunity" in verse 15 is the Greek word *kairos*. It's often translated as the word 'time' but here it's using 'opportunity'. It's different than the Greek word for time, *chronos* which means chronological time. So two ideas of time. One is chronological which we all understand and the other is an appointed time by God when he wants to do something. We are asked to respond to his *kairos* time moments with repentance and belief (see Mark 1:15). This is an important distinction, so spend time and come to a group understanding of *kairos*. You can google it too if that helps. Why is *kairos* so important?

4. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. Sometimes God tests us in our faith. These moments of testing are another form of *kairos* moments or seasons. Are you ok knowing God tests us for our benefit? The writer of Hebrews used the phrase that Abraham did "receive back" (in this case Isaac from death). Share your thoughts on God always providing a way no matter what the circumstances. Do you believe this equally in your head and your heart?

APPLICATION

Identify a few things that will help you in your faith journey to be better at recognizing and responding in *kairos* moments. Share with the group one way this passage has challenged you in your faith and what you see God is asking you to do. You can do this as a whole group or break into smaller groups, so you can share and pray for each other.

South Abbotsford Church Kairos Fixed Prayer Time:

We are starting a Fixed Daily Prayer as a church this week. Between 7-8 AM every day, we are asking the congregation to pray for 15 minutes about the Lead Pastor Search. Every week we will publish (in the Ministry Update) a new theme and scripture to base your prayers around for that week. It's quite simple, but 15 minutes of prayer on your own, knowing that hundreds of others are praying at the same time can be a powerful way to live in the *kairos* moment we as a church are in. If you can't pray between 7 and 8 each morning, pick a time that works consistently for you. Will you join the prayer movement?