

The Life Challenge

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

Series: Living by Faith

Title: I Want That Kind of Faith

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Date: May 7, 2023



WARM - UP

If you could name someone you know that has an unshakable faith, who would that be and what part of their story has really inspired you? How would your faith show up if you were in their circumstances? Where does living with confident faith come from?

DISCUSSION

The Jewish Christians to whom Hebrews is written were severely persecuted and some were "shrinking back" from living by faith in Christ (Hebrews 10:32-39). Discuss with your group about how you have experienced and responded to opposition to your faith in Christ? Read and reflect for a few moments on Hebrews 10:38-39...what do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you?

The "Hebrews Faith Hall of Fame" names ancient men and women who despite very limited revelation from God were commended for living by faith. Be encouraged by the faith of these two ancient men:

Abel (Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:1-8) What stands out for you about the worship and offerings of Cain & Abel? Was Abel better than Cain? Did he get the reward of God's acceptance due to his goodness and attitude towards God? What is the encouragement to you about the faith of Abel?

DISCUSSION

Enoch (Hebrews 11:5; Genesis 5:21-24) Enoch lived near to the time of Noah, so people were likely living much the same. What stands out to you about the way that Enoch lived by faith? What is the encouragement to you about the faith of Enoch?

The writer of Hebrews follows these two ancient stories with this weighty truth about faith to his persecuted hearers (11:6). As you meditate on this truth, what is the encouragement and challenge to you to live by faith?:

- a. "And without faith it is impossible to please God" - What is the key way that your faith pleases God? You may think that you do not have enough faith - but is it "more" faith that pleases God?
- b. "Anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists" - Why is placing faith in someone (object) rather than something (outcome) is a "game changer?" What do I learn about God by placing my faith in Jesus?
- c. "That he rewards those who earnestly seek him." - Why is it that faith only works if you live it out in life? What would you do today if you were absolutely confident that God is with you?

APPLICATION

God invites you to live by faith in Jesus in such a way that it reflects your confidence in God and that you would grow in faith to the point that anytime there is a tragedy - anytime there is a question - anytime there is a challenge - you would be absolutely confident that God is with you. When you meet somebody like this - when you live like this - you are amazing, aren't you?