

## ***Doing a 180° - Turning around & getting life right***

Week 3 – Living by Faith Instead of Sight

March 12, 2006

Some common “Faith Killers”

- Religiosity - the form / practice of religion without relationship
- Phoniness - playing religion, saying one thing while living another
- Unanswered good prayers - being refused by God with no explanation
- Really trying & failing - stepping out for God...and falling flat on your face
- Life - living in a world that is highly skeptical of faith

How can I build my faith??

### 1. We all have stuff we can't fix

***One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. And whenever this evil spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and become rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it.”***

*Mark chapter 9 verses 17 & 18 (769)*

- When someone we love is helpless, it's O.K. to ask God to help them
- The unseen is real, there really is a spiritual battle going on all around us (*see Ephesians chapter 6 verses 10 - 18, p. # 898*)
- Just because someone does or tries to do something in God's name, doesn't mean that God was in it

### 2. There's always hope with Jesus

***So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. “How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy's father. “Since he was very small.” the dad said.***

*Mark chapter 9 verses 20 & 21 (769)*

- In spite of his discouragement, the dad still brought his son to Jesus
- Don't let your discouragement separate you from God
- God knows that we hurt when those we love hurt

(over)

3. I don't have to have God fully figured out before I come to Him

*The dad continued, "The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."*

*Mark chapter 9 verse 22 (769)*

- Don't wait until you "have it all together" to approach God
- Some already have plenty of information about God on which to act
- Don't feel the need to be phony with God...he knows the real you & he loves you just the way you are

4. Choose to put your faith in God

*"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."*

*Mark chapter 9 verse 23 (769)*

- God knows the real me and he asks me to trust him...in spite of my doubts
- What is it that God is ready to do in your life...if only you'll ask him?

5. Admit your doubt & ask God for help

*The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"*

*Mark chapter 9 verse 24 (769)*

- Doubt is a part of every life
- God's O.K. with my doubt...
- Just as long as the doubt doesn't win or rule my life

6. People of faith get to see God do great things!

*When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear & speak," he said, "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.*

*Mark chapter 9 verses 25 - 27 (770)*

- What if the dad would've let his doubt keep him from approaching Jesus?
- What if the dad would've let his doubt keep him from asking Jesus for a miracle?
- What is your doubt keeping you from asking God for?
- What is your doubt keeping you from seeing God do?
- Spending time with Jesus builds my faith!

Next Sunday: Staying instead of Leaving (how to endure trials)