

“The Focus of Faith”

Greg Wendschlag March 10, 2019

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: Hebrews; Numb. 1-14; Ps. 24-31

- * “Whatever is not of faith, is sin.” Rom. 14:23
- * “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Heb. 11:6
- * “Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God.” Rom. 10:17
- * “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Heb. 11:1
- * “Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith.” Heb. 12:2
- * “For it is by grace through faith that we are saved.” Eph. 2:8
- * “The righteous ones will live by faith.” Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38
- * “Faith without deeds is dead.” James 2:26
- * “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Gal. 5:6
- * “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

The Focus of Faith - Joshua and Caleb Numbers 13-14

1. Focus on the Word not the worry.

“The Lord said to Moses, “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites.” Num. 13:1

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” Rom. 10:17

- The Bible fills us with faith by teaching us; Who God is, what God has done, how we should respond to God and how God responds to us.

2. Focus on obedience not the outcome.

“So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.” Num. 13:3

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Dan. 3:17-18

- When the outcome becomes the focus rather than obedience, faith turns into fear.

3. Focus on **trusting** not the **trial**.

“Then Caleb...said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it. But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” Num. 13:30-33

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you can become mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4

- When the trial becomes the focus rather than trusting God it leads to discouragement and disobedience.

4. Focus on the **person** not the **problem**.

“If the Lord is pleased with us, He will lead us into the land...Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land...The Lord is with us. Do not be afraid...” Num. 14:8-9

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lost heart.” Heb. 12:2-3

- When you focus on Jesus and not the problem the results become secondary to the relationship.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal. 2:20

Next Week In the Word

Bible reading: Num. 15-33; Ps. 32-37

1. Psalms 33-37 are powerful praise Psalms. What characteristics of God stand out for you? What about God’s nature can you rely on this week?
2. Take note of the strange story in Num. 21:4-9. Also read John 3 and take note of vs 14. Think about the comparisons and contrasts to the two passages.
3. The story of Balaam (Num. 22-25) is a very strange occurrence in the history of Israel’s journey. Note Num. 25. Balaam could not curse Israel directly but Israel brought curses on herself. How did this happen and what does it tell us about our daily life choices?