

Today we talked about how our faith is a deposit within us, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, to be used according to God's plan and purposes. It occurred to me that sometimes when we feel weak in our faith we might buy into the lie that maybe God chose that for us. That He only entrusted us with a little faith, so really it is His plan that we are not operating with BIG faith. Can I just put the brakes on that thought quickly? God gives us the seed of faith, and we are then given the opportunity to tend to it within our lives so that it can grow and be used as He intends.

How do you grow good seed? There are many things that go into healthy growth: containers, soil nutrients, light exposure, watering frequently, protection from harsh environment, just to name a few. When we make a concerted effort to grow in a certain area we have to be intentional about all the areas that contribute to or hinder growth. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ." Romans 10:17, Holman Christian Standard Bible.

Let's look at a great biblical example of a faith filled life: Abraham

"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." Romans 4:18-21, NIV

Abraham learned to be man of faith through trial and error. There are many times that faith is credited to him and he is exemplary in following God, but if you read closely there were also many other times where fear overtook faith and he failed God. In those moments of failure he learned that he really could trust God, that God's word is true and dependable. The fruit of that journey is a man who we now look to as an example of steadfast faith. So what were the areas that Abraham learned to use as stepping-stones of faith growth?

1. He learned to not let his circumstances define the outcome.
2. That God is able to fulfill every promise He makes.
3. That praising God in the good and the bad is always an acceptable and appropriate response.

Your Turn:

Take these three steps that we see modeled in Abraham's life and apply them to your life today:

1. Write a faith statement proclaiming how your circumstances will not define the outcome of your situation:

2. Write a declaration of personal faith believing that God is able to fulfill His promises.

3. Write a psalm of praise, no matter what your circumstances are today, as an acceptable response to God.

"But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched, ready for the mercy of our Master, Jesus Christ. This is the unending life, the real life!" Jude 1:20,21 The Message